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Bringing them HOME

New policy will allow adoption of retired detachment horses

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Arpril Naiman spent nearly four years — the entirety of her Army service — riding a horse named Big Ben in the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment. They rode together in the 2003 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., then they galloped up the mountain to the famous Hollywood sign. They traveled through many small Texas towns for parades and participated in countless cavalry charges for division ceremonies.

‘We really want them to enjoy being a horse in their golden years.’

Capt. Jenny Nocella
commander, 1st
Cavalry Division Horse
Cavalry Detachment

“He was one of the fastest horses in detachment at that time, so when we’d do cavalry charges... I had to do my best to hold him back as far as I could,” said Naiman, 37, who left the Army in 2004 as a sergeant. “Once we

were gone, that was it. If I wasn’t careful, we’d end up way out in front of everybody.” That time with the detachment changed her life. Naiman entered the Army as a medic, expecting it to lead to a career in that field. Instead, years of riding experience landed her in the horse detachment, where she quickly rose to the top riding group and worked as the military trainer alongside the civilian trainer. After leaving the Army, she went to the University of Findlay in Ohio and earned a bachelor’s in equine business management.

Since then, she’d always dreamed of adopting Big Ben and bringing him to her 23-acre farm in Oxford, Ohio, where she lives

SEE ADOPTION ON PAGE 6



Travler, 30, seen at his new home in Cameron, Texas, on Sept. 3, was the first horse to be adopted under the government’s new policy on military animals.

ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Ambitious Korean military pact may ease tensions as nuke progress lags

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea wasn’t at the table when military commanders from the U.S.-led United Nations Command and the joint Chinese-North Korean forces signed the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War. Then-President Syngman Rhee opposed peace talks.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in isn’t letting that happen again. The 65-year-old former human rights attorney has sent clear signals that Seoul is moving forward with improving relations with the North despite slow progress on the nuclear front.

Efforts to resume economic cooperation are limited by U.S.-led sanctions linked to the North’s banned nuclear weapons program.

But a far-reaching military agreement signed during Moon’s summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week outlines ambitious steps to reduce tensions along the heavily fortified border, which has bisected the peninsula since the end of the three-year Korean War.

While his efforts to revive nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington got the most attention, Moon called the military accord “the most important” result for relations between the two countries.

“This development would go beyond ending the Korean War that has remained unfinished since the signing of the

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Signs of hope on N. Korea ahead of Trump UN address

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‘This development would go beyond ending the Korean War that has remained unfinished since the signing of the armistice agreement, eradicating any possibility of war between the two Koreas in the future.’

Moon Jae-in
South Korean president

MILITARY

Magic Leap seeks Army combat contract

By JOSHUA BRUSTEIN
Bloomberg

Magic Leap Inc. is pushing to land a contract with the U.S. Army to build augmented-reality devices for soldiers to use on combat missions, according to government documents and interviews with people familiar with the process.

The contract, which could eventually lead to the military purchasing more than 100,000 headsets as part of a program whose total cost could exceed \$500 million, is intended to "increase lethality by enhancing the ability to detect, decide and engage before the enemy," according to an Army description of the program. A large government contract could alter the course of the highest-profile startup working on augmented reality at a time when prospects to produce a consumer device remain uncertain.

Building tools to make soldiers more deadly is a far cry from the nascent consumer market for augmented reality. But the army's program has also drawn interest from Microsoft, whose HoloLens is Magic Leap's main rival. The commercial-grade versions of both devices still face significant technological hurdles, and it's not clear the companies can fulfill the army's technical requirements.

Controversy likely

If recent history is any guide, a large military contract is also sure to be controversial within the companies.

Magic Leap declined to comment. Microsoft confirmed it had attended a meeting in which officials from the Army met with potential bidders. A spokesman for the Army Contracting Command had no immediate comment.

The Army's program is currently known as HUD 3.0 (for "heads up device") or the Integrated Visual Augmentation System, and has been percolating through the armed forces for years in various forms. It

entails the construction of a physical headset, designed to overlay digital images on the physical world, as well as a software platform that could be used both in training and live combat. The details of the program are laid out in a series of documents on a public website for military contractors.

During training, soldiers would wear the headsets to take part in platoon assaults, and respond to simulated ambushes and chemical attacks. This practice warfare would be recorded from all angles and could be analyzed afterward much like an NFL football team watches game tapes.

But soldiers would also wear the devices into all types of combat situations, both during the day and at night. At those times, digital images would show soldiers digital maps, or help them aim their weapons. The devices would also be used for communication.

'Train as You Fight'

"HUD 3.0 will allow the warfighter to 'Train as You Fight' with identical training/operational weapons and equipment in any terrain," the Army writes in a Statement of Objectives.

In the devices' final form, the Army expects them to incorporate night vision and thermal sensing, measure vital signs like breathing and "readiness," monitor for concussions and offer hearing protection. The website lays out plans to award an initial contract in November. Over the first two years of the project, the winning bidder would be expected to deliver 2,500 headsets and exhibit the capacity for full-scale production.

The competition for the HUD 3.0 program was officially kicked off at a meeting in early August, just days before Magic Leap began selling the first version of its headset to the public. Army officials gave a presentation showing the history of head-mounted devices for soldiers, starting with the first night-vision goggles in the 1970s, according to notes posted online. They



DAVID PAUL MORRIS/Bloomberg

Rony Abowitz, founder and chief executive officer of Magic Leap, arrives at the Allen & Co. Media and Technology Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho, on July 13.

then held meetings with 25 companies who were interested in participating in some way. Others in attendance included Microsoft, Booz Allen Hamilton, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon Co.

Magic Leap's name doesn't appear on the public list of attendees. However, a company called MLH, with the website mlhorizons.com, was at the meeting.

Chosen Realities, a company owned by Magic Leap, in May filed paperwork to do business in Florida as ML Horizons, through a form called "an application for registration of fictitious name." ML Horizons shares an address with Magic Leap, and the people listed as attendees are Magic Leap employees. Chosen Realities, which was quietly acquired by Magic

Leap, is a small company with a contract to work on augmented reality with the Army Research Laboratory.

Seen as the favorite

Three people with knowledge of the process say there's widespread perception that Magic Leap is the favorite. They asked to remain anonymous, to avoid alienating the military or retaliation by the company.

There are several signs that the Army had a particular company in mind when it began accepting bids. In March, Brig. Gen. Christopher Donahue told BreakingDefense.com, an online newsletter about the defense industry, that the army already had an industry partner to work on augmented reality headsets.

When the Army released its list of requirements for the program, it referred to waveguide optics, the exact technology that Magic Leap has been developing for years.

It is using a bidding process set up for the armed services to do business with companies that aren't traditional defense contractors. On Aug. 22, it put out a request for white papers from bidders, giving them until Sept. 7 to respond — an unusually short time for such a complex proposal, according to people familiar with the procurement process.

Magic Leap's emergence as a potential military supplier cuts against the public image it has cultivated. Rony Abowitz, the company's founder and chief executive officer, has generally discussed the main potential of his product as a creative tool for artists and technologists.

But the company has maintained quiet contact with the military for several years, according to a former employee who asked to remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation. This person said that there had been simmering concern about Magic Leap's interactions with the military from at least a handful of employees who felt such work was not what they had signed up to do.

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PACIFIC

Long wait ends for sons of lost American

Battered dog tag is family's precious bond to father identified from Korean War remains

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC, Hawaii — On Friday, brothers Charles and Larry McDaniel ascended the Punchbowl Cemetery's monument displaying the names of roughly 24,000 servicemen who remain missing from the Korean War and the Pacific theater of World War II.

They climbed up scaffolding to reach the spot where their father's name, Charles McDaniel Sr., is inscribed in stone and placed a bronze rosette next to his name, indicating he is missing no more.

During an earlier ceremony at the cemetery observing the annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Charles McDaniel Jr. told an audience of 300 how the remains of his father were suddenly and dramatically found.

When North Korea turned over 55 boxes possibly holding the remains of Americans who died in the Korean War in July, McDaniel greeted the news with caution.

He was 3½ when he last saw his father, who was declared missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, during the Korean War.

The elder McDaniel, who was a medic, was one of more than 5,000 American servicemen whose remains are believed to be in North Korea.

"So I figured, 55 sets of remains: 1 percent chance or less" his father's remains would be among them, McDaniel said. "You kind of push it back, like you have to with grief."

Yes, the pain of a lost father always lingers, he said, "but you have to push it back, and you go on with your life."

But then, a representative from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency called with a stunning update: the sole dog tag found in the boxes of remains belonged to his father.

"Last week I got another call,"



Brothers Charles, left, and Larry McDaniel stand beside a memorial wall holding the name of their father at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii on Friday.

PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes



Above: Charles McDaniel Jr., holds the dog tag worn by his father during the Korean War.

Left: Larry McDaniel places a bronze rosette beside the name of his father, Charles McDaniel, Sr., at the Punchbowl Cemetery.

McDaniel explained. "Didn't expect it so soon. Waited 68 years for this."

"They said, 'We've identified your father,'" McDaniel said, gasping as he swallowed a sob,

as he did numerous times while speaking to the crowd.

"Excuse me for grieving in front of you," he said. "I'm really not apologizing, I'm just telling you it's a reality."

On Thursday, the brothers were shown their father's remains at the DPAA headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"My emotions are jumbled by recent events," he said.

He recalled as a little boy thinking from time to time, "Maybe my dad's still alive."

Then, as he grew up, dark thoughts about his father possibly being in a prison camp somewhere, mistreated and tortured, encroached upon him.

"But I knew logically — as my brother Larry and I discussed from time to time — we knew that he wasn't coming back as a living person," he said.

McDaniel held onto a precious few things that made his father real.

He had a handwritten letter sent by his father to his mother, mailed from Ogden, Utah, as he headed to war in Korea.

"Give my love to the boys," the letter closes, words that took on almost the relevance of Scripture to McDaniel, who went on to a career as an Army chaplain.

He has only one memory of his father, a moment when he ran toward him to greet him coming home, his dad sweeping him up in his arms.

Now there is the dog tag.

After the ceremony, he held it in the palm of his hand and showed a group of reporters.

"This was around my father's neck," he said with a tone of wonder that he could ever be this close to him.

While at the podium, McDaniel recited the concise information on the dog tag — full name, service number, blood type A, Protestant.

"I value all of those things because I have type A blood, because I have faith, like my father had faith," he said. "That's something that's gotten me through for many years, and I commend it to you."

"I leave him in the hands of God, but I encourage all of you to participate as you can in supporting looking for those who have gone missing, that you take it personally and enthusiastically, steadfastly."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWilson

Courts-martial scheduled for Marine charged in wife's death

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Florida-based Marine will soon be heading to courts-martial in the 2015 suffocation death of his wife while stationed on Okinawa and in the assault of a woman in Mississippi the following year.

Pfc. Timothy Irvin, 23, assigned to Marine Aviation Training Support Group 23 out of Pensacola, Fla., has been charged in the death of Glynis Shermaine "Necii" Irvin, 19, according to a copy of the charge sheet obtained by Stars and Stripes.

Necii Irvin died Aug. 31, 2015, at the couple's home on Okinawa. Prosecutors say Timothy Irvin placed a hand over her nose and mouth, preventing her from breathing. Irvin was charged with involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault with a force likely to produce death or grievous

bodily harm and five counts of making false statements to investigators.

In a separate case, Irvin has been charged with one count of aggravated assault with a force likely to produce death or grievous bodily harm in the Sept. 30, 2016, strangulation assault of a woman in his hometown of Hattiesburg, Miss., the document said.

A special court-martial has been set for Irvin — who is now in pretrial confinement — on Oct. 22-25, while a general court-martial is scheduled for Nov. 29 through Dec. 14, Marine Corps Installations East spokesman Nat Fahy wrote in an email to



Irvin

Stars and Stripes.

Irvin's lawyers said they intend to request a delay for the general court-martial, which will be held at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Irvin graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 2013, according to his Facebook profile, and joined the Marine Corps in February 2014, the same year he married Necii Irvin.

He left for Okinawa the following September, according to his Facebook posts, and was assigned to 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Necii Irvin was found unresponsive Aug. 31, 2015, Fahy wrote, citing Camp Lejeune's Legal Services Support Section. An initial autopsy was mostly inconclusive but said she had been dead for some time. An investigation was then opened by Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

After his wife's death, Irvin was granted a "humanitarian transfer" to Hattiesburg,

Fahy wrote. He was promoted to corporal in December 2015 but was knocked down in rank by two separate nonjudicial punishments — one stemming from "colateral matters" on Okinawa unrelated to his wife's death and another from misconduct in Mississippi.

Irvin took an NCIS polygraph test while in Mississippi, Fahy said.

"After the polygraph he was placed in pre-trial confinement ... and charged (with) the death of his spouse," he said. Additional charges were added in January 2018.

The five counts of making false statements to investigators stem from his recollections of what happened the night his wife died and whether there was any domestic discord, the charge sheet said. He was also charged with wrongful use of oxycodone.

burke.matt@stripes.com

MILITARY

IG cites poor upkeep at Europe supply caches

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Army and Marine Corps combat stocks intended to supply thousands of troops in an emergency or conflict showed signs of corrosion and poor upkeep at multiple sites in Europe, a Pentagon watchdog said.

The Defense Department Inspector General's findings "raise potential concerns" that at least \$204 million worth of equipment isn't being properly stored and maintained since the maintenance protocols observed at four sites apply at other locations, according to a report published Thursday.

The report did not specify how many total storage sites there are in Europe.

"Without adequately managed pre-positioned equipment, the Army and the Marine Corps may not be able to fully support a request to provide immediate crisis response when the need arises in Europe or Africa," said the report.

The Pentagon has beefed up stocks of tanks, armored vehicles, heavy artillery and other equipment across Europe in the wake of Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine.

Having those pieces in place gives EUCOM the ability to respond to a developing crisis in a fraction of the time it would take to move the supplies from the United States.

But the audit found that some equipment may not be serviceable quickly enough. In some cases, humidity levels weren't controlled, causing equipment to corrode. There was also a lack of maintenance documentation on some weapons and vehicles.

The problems were noted at four of five sites reviewed — the Leghorn Army Depot at Camp Darby in Livorno, Italy, and at three caves in Norway where the Marine Corps stores and maintains equipment in partnership with the Norwegian.

A site visit was also conducted at Zutendaal, Belgium. The findings were not included because the location only recently began receiving equipment.

The Army and Marine Corps didn't dispute the findings. They agreed to implement some of the



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNAS/Stars and Stripes

Marine 155 mm howitzers, above, and Marine LAV-25s, below, sit inside one of the Marine Corps Pre-Positioning Norway caves in the Tondegel region of Northern Norway on Feb. 2.



inspectors' recommendations but didn't respond to others, according to the report.

At Leghorn Army Depot, where 65 weapons valued at nearly \$1 million are stored, the required air systems inspections, along with humidity and temperature data, were never completed or recorded for more than three years, the audit found. Though no corrosion of weapons was found, the inspectors did see signs of corrosion on 53 of 104 vehicles, valued at \$23.4 million, according to the report.

Pentagon inspectors also found that relative humidity wasn't controlled at the Bjugn, Frigard and Tromsdal caves in Norway, where the Marines keep large stocks.

Marine Corps equipment says the rate of corrosion increases exponentially when relative humidity exceeds 50 percent.

During a three-year period, humidity readings exceeded the

recommended range for more than 1,500 days collectively at the three caves, according to the report.

Marines have identified corrosion as an issue in the caves, the report said.

Most of the equipment in Norway is maintained by Norwegian civilians, with oversight by the Norwegian military and Marines.

Also, routine maintenance was not performed on more than 100 vehicles inspected at the caves. Leaks were observed on 16 of 53 mission-essential vehicles, including an armored bridge vehicle, the report said.

Inspectors recommended the Marines assess equipment corrosion, develop maintenance requirements for certain weapons and work out better procedures for recording completed maintenance.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

U.S. Maj. Gen. Scott McKean, commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, and Uijeongbu Mayor Ahn Byung Yong cut a cake during a Chuseok celebration at Camp Red Cloud, South Korea, on Thursday.

Soldiers give thanks at final Chuseok holiday

By MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea — The 2nd Infantry Division held its last Chuseok dinner Thursday in the northern city of Uijeongbu — a final night of thanks before the headquarters and its soldiers relocate 60 miles south to Camp Humphreys later this year.

Chuseok is a three-day Thanksgiving-like celebration in which Korean families trek to their ancestral homes to visit relatives and enjoy traditional foods and games.

"We are here to celebrate Chuseok ... to understand the culture of our hosts; we are also celebrating our time as guests in Uijeongbu, as this is our final event that we will host at Camp Red Cloud," said 2ID's commander, Maj. Gen. Scott McKean, according to an audio recording of the event provided by the Army.

Instead of returning to their roots, Camp Red Cloud soldiers will soon pack up and leave an installation that's hosted U.S. servicemembers since the Korean War. The 2ID museum, a fixture at the base, boxed up its artifacts last week, and Camp Red Cloud's old stone brick chapel will be decommissioned next month.

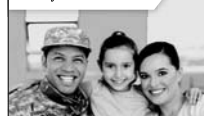
The handover of Camp Red Cloud — which lies between Seoul and the Demilitarized Zone — will fulfill a major part of the often-delayed 2004 agreement between Washington and Seoul to move the bulk of U.S. forces to sprawling Humphreys in Pyeongtaek.

Two Korean war veterans were on hand for Thursday's Chuseok feast, during which Indianhead soldiers broke bread with their Korean hosts.

Uijeongbu Mayor Ahn Byung Yong said the 2ID has exemplified what it means to be in the "blood-forged alliance."

"It is sad that 2ID will be relocated to Pyeongtaek, but please remember that citizens of Uijeongbu, no matter where 2ID soldiers are in Korea, will always bring the kindness and happiness that we built together," he said in the recording.

fichtl.marcus@stripes.com
Twitter: @MarcusFichtl



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Sailor dies following Naples car accident

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — A sailor died Sept. 7 from injuries he received in a car crash near the Navy base here, officials confirmed Friday.

Jason Weiss-Butta, 21, a medical specialist, died following a two-car accident that occurred Sept. 6 in Casal di Principe, a

town about 7 miles from the Navy Support Site.

An unidentified Italian citizen also was killed in the wreck, said Christina Clarke, a Naples base hospital spokeswoman.

A second U.S. servicemember was injured, then treated at a local hospital and released, Clarke said.

Weiss-Butta, a native of Reno, Nev., was assigned to the base hospital after he completed his hospital corpsman training.

Italian authorities and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service are investigating the accident.

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MILITARY

Adoption: New rule lets public adopt retired detachment horses

FROM FRONT PAGE

with her three children and Navy veteran husband. This month, that dream came true.

"I never thought he'd be in Ohio with me, and my kids would get to hang out with him and meet him and ride him," she said. "It feels like everything is coming full circle. I'm beyond excited."

A new adoption policy, part of Title 10, U.S. Code on military animals, will allow Big Ben, now 25 and five years into retirement, and other retired detachment horses to spend the remainder of their lives with second families outside the Army.

"We're doing this because we really want them to enjoy being a horse in their golden years," said Capt. Jenny Nocella, detachment commander. Before the policy, which was implemented in May, the detachment's quarter horses lived out their retirement on pasture rotation just outside the main gate of Fort Hood in Texas.

"The best reward is knowing he is so well loved and taken care of," Nocella said, emphasizing that the older retired horses were never a burden on the unit and that the soldiers aren't looking to pass off responsibility. Just like soldiers who leave the Army to find a civilian life, the detachment wants the same for these horses.

One retired horse, Jethro, is unavailable for the program because he has a heart condition that requires 23 pills a day. Nocella said they couldn't ask a family to take on such responsibility.

Big Ben is the second horse the detachment adopted out this summer. The first was Traylor, a 30-year-old whose career highlights with the detachment include many Rose Parades and an inauguration parade in Washington for then-President George W. Bush. Naiman said she was away at training during the 2001 parade, so she and Big Ben missed out.

On Aug. 3, Traylor moved to his new home with Wanda and Tony Noakes at the 47-acre Wylwynd Ranch in Cameron, Texas, about 60 miles east of Fort Hood. Tony Noakes, 58, is a retired sergeant major who, as a cavalry scout, spent a portion of his 28-year career in 1st Cavalry Division units at Fort Hood. His 2008 retirement ceremony took place at Hood and included a cavalry charge by the horse detachment. He continues to work on post for a contractor.

The horse has his own enclosure neighboring gypsy van horses, Tennessee Walking Horses and Brangus cows. Wanda Noakes, 65, said Traylor will occasionally reach his head over the fence to groom Shawnee, a gypsy van yearling who is quite taken with her new neighbor.

Other than being too old for an adult to ride, Traylor doesn't act like a 30-year-old horse, Wanda Noakes said. The average horse lives to be 30 to 35.

"He's very feisty," she said. "He has my heart. He's so easy and he loves people."

Because of Traylor's military training, Noakes said the horse is easy to keep. He stands still for grooming, is polite when she feeds him and loves carrots.

While Big Ben hasn't been ridden in a couple years, he is younger than Traylor and physically fit enough for it. Naiman said she looks forward to getting that opportunity again and sharing it with her children, ages 12, 8 and 2.

The use to adopt out retired horses from the detachment began about four years ago



Courtesy of April Naiman

April Naiman; her husband, Kyle; and their children, Olivia, 12, Lyla, 8, and Theodore, 2, stand with Big Ben, the horse April rode 15 years ago as a soldier with the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment.

Horse tours at Fort Hood

Swing by the cavalry detachment stables at Fort Hood in Texas at any time of day and get a free tour. Every Thursday at 10 a.m., soldiers perform a demonstration of riding and weapons drills taken from the 1873 Army Drill and Tactics Manual.

as a way to "make sure those horses got to spend their time outside the Army with families who love and adore the organization," Nocella said.

"For us, it's more for the personal aspect," she said. "We want to see these horses go and see something else. Here in this pasture, they can still hear a cannon go off every day."

They aren't startled. When they hear it, they are ready to go to work, she added.

Government organizations take priority when adopting horses that might have some years of work left in them, followed by anyone who meets the requirements, which include having the right acreage for a horse — two acres for the first horse and an acre more for each additional horse — and the ability to provide proper care, feeding, facilities and any special requirements the elderly horse might have.

"Anything he would have received here, we make sure he'll receive at his next home," Nocella said, adding they've had no trouble finding adoptive families to take on the horses.

Anybody can apply and there is no fee to adopt — just supporting the horse financially, which Wanda Noakes estimated at \$300 a month.

The Noakeses happen to live near Fort Hood, but there are no restrictions on distance as long as the horse is physically able to make the trip. Naiman was responsible for providing transportation for Big Ben's weeklong journey from Texas to Ohio.

Nocella said she hopes to see some



Rose L. Traylor/Stars and Stripes

Wanda and Tony Noakes adopted Traylor, a quarter horse, from the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment.

equine therapy groups apply for adoptions as well.

The detachment, created in 1972, is home to 31 quarter horses, three mules and a dog. The animals are cared for by the detachment's 32 soldiers and civilian stable master. Soldiers also learn skills such as leatherworking and saddlery, farrier skills to shoe the horses and maintenance of the unit arm's room, which includes Colt revolvers, the weapon used by 1880s cavalrymen. That teaches soldiers special skills and allows the detachment to be self-sustaining.

There's one more retired horse at the detachment, and its adoption availability will be announced in the coming weeks, Nocella said. Following the trend of similar adoption programs at Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Irwin, Calif.; and the Old Guard in Washington, adoptions are

announced on the unit's Facebook page. The first two horses each drew four interested parties.

When Wanda Noakes saw the announcement about Traylor, she was on pins and needles with excitement. During her husband's time at Fort Hood she said she often would park at the visitor's center and watch the detachment's horses in the nearby pasture.

Having Traylor "is something I can do for the Army. It's something that pays back. That's huge for me," she said.

Tony Noakes was completely on board with the adoption.

"She already takes care of one cavalryman. She can take care of another," he said.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

MILITARY

Ease: Some fear Moon letting down guard too soon; effect of pact on armistice unclear

FROM FRONT PAGE

armistice agreement, eradicating any possibility of war between the two Koreas in the future," he said during a press conference after returning to Seoul on Thursday.

Conservatives in South Korea and other critics have expressed concern that Moon's administration is letting down its guard too soon considering the North's track record of renegeing on past agreements.

It's also unclear how the military measures may affect the armistice agreement, which is enforced by the United Nations Command under the command of Army Gen. Vincent Brooks, who also leads U.S. Forces Korea.

The UNC, which would likely need to sign off on key points, said it would "thoroughly review" the agreement "to ensure compliance with the Armistice Agreement."

The command will cooperate with South Korea's Defense Ministry and "as appropriate" with the North Korean military "to work through the detailed agreement," according to a UNC official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The UNC has made a number of exceptions to facilitate diplomatic efforts that gained momentum this year, including allowing North Korean officials and athletes to travel across the DMZ for the Winter Olympics.

But the command blocked Korean plans for a joint railway survey in August, citing a procedural error.

Experts said the agreement — the result of extensive bilateral talks in the run-up to the Sept. 18-20 summit in Pyongyang — would help build trust and lower the possibility of accidental conflict.

"I think it makes very appropriate reciprocal confidence-building measures," said Eric Gomez, a security analyst at the U.S. libe-

tarian think tank Cato Institute.

He said it would be hard for the United States to object to the measures, calling it "clever maneuvering on Moon's part."

"If they said no, then it would just be enhancing Kim's arguments that the U.S. isn't negotiating in good faith," he said in a telephone interview. "And it would also create problems with the alliance with South Korea."

Easing tensions

The deal appeared designed to stay within parameters that would be acceptable to the U.S., which maintains some 28,500 troops in the South.

It was focused on conventional forces, an important issue for Moon since North Korea has more than 1 million soldiers and thousands of artillery batteries and rockets poised to target Seoul, some 35 miles to the south.

North Korean leaders have threatened in the past to turn the South Korean capital into a "sea of fire."

But military officials have said they're just as worried that misunderstandings or human error may tip the peninsula into crisis.

"I think the only way you really get to nuclear use on the peninsula is not the North surprise attacking anyone or the U.S. surprise attacking the North. It's more from something ... that has the risk of spiraling out of control," Gomez said.

The two sides agreed to cease military exercises including live-fire artillery drills and maritime maneuver exercises in frontline areas effective Nov. 1.

They also will designate no-fly zones for helicopters, drones and hot-air balloons, which are used to deliver propaganda leaflets, above the Military Demarcation Line that runs through the Demilitarized Zone.

"It stops short of addressing the

annual combined exercises by the US that so offend the North Koreans," Joshua Pollack, of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California, wrote in a tweet.

"Seoul continues to 'color inside the lines' of alliance solidarity in its dealings with the North," he said.

President Donald Trump suspended the joint war games after the Singapore summit but warned he could "instantly restart" them if progress isn't made toward denuclearization.

The Koreans agreed to withdraw 11 guard posts from each side in the Demilitarized Zone by the end of the year.

DMZ blueprint

The rivals also announced a blueprint to transform the DMZ, a 2.5-mile-wide no man's land that is lined with barbed wire and live mines, into a peace zone, as agreed during the first Moon-Kim summit on April 27.

That included plans to remove all mines and disarm troops in the Joint Security Area in the truce village of Panmunjom. The agreement said a trilateral consultative body including the two Koreas and the UNC would be established to oversee the process.

"If implemented, these measures will reduce tensions, and will also make incidents at the DMZ significantly less likely — even though it will hardly prevent either side from staging a clash when/if it is seen as politically expedient," North Korea expert Andrei Lankov wrote in a commentary for NK News.

"But given that many earlier incidents were seemingly provoked by human error, these measures are likely to save the lives of soldiers from both sides," he said.

gamei.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgamei

Hope seen on N. Korea ahead of UN meeting

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — North Korea's Kim Jong Un is "little rock man" no more, President Donald Trump isn't a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard."

In the year since Trump's searing, debut U.N. speech fueled fears of nuclear conflict with North Korea, the two leaders have turned from threats to flattery.

And there's fresh hope that the U.S. president's abrupt shift from coercion to negotiation can yield results in getting Kim to halt, if not abandon, his nuclear weapons program.

Trump will address world leaders at the United Nations on Tuesday on the back of an upbeat summit between South and North Korea, where Kim promised to dismantle a major rocket launch site and the North's main nuclear complex at Nyonbyon if it gets some incentive from Washington.

North Korea remains a long, long way from relinquishing its nuclear arsenal, and the U.S. has been adding to, not easing, sanctions. Yet the past 12 months have seen a remarkable change in atmosphere between the adversaries that has surprised even the former U.S. envoy on North Korea.

"If someone had told me last year that North Korea will stop nuclear tests, will stop missile tests, and that they will release the remaining American prisoners and that they would be even

considering dismantling Nyonbyon, I would have taken that in a heartbeat," said Joseph Yun, who resigned in March and has since left the U.S. foreign service.

Since Trump and Kim held the first summit between U.S. and North Korean leaders in Singapore in June, Trump has missed no chance to praise "Chairman Kim," and Kim has expressed "trust and confidence" in the American president he once branded "senile."

But progress has been slow toward the vague goal they agreed upon — denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which has eluded U.S. presidents for the past quarter-century. The U.S. wants to achieve that by January 2021, when Trump completes his first term in office.

Although Kim won't be going to New York next week, meetings there could prove critical in deciding whether a second Trump-Kim summit will take place any time soon.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has invited his North Korean counterpart, Ri Yong Ho, for a meeting in New York, and Trump will be consulting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, fresh from his third summit with Kim this year. It was at that meeting in Pyongyang that the North Korean leader made his tantalizing offers to close key facilities of his weapons programs that have revived prospects for U.S.-North Korea talks.

Inter-Korean military agreement seeks to end hostilities

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The following are highlights from the inter-Korean military agreement signed by senior defense officials from both countries during the Sept. 18-20 summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang.

The source is an English translation provided by the South Korean president's office.

1) South and North Korea agreed to completely cease all hostile acts against each other in every domain, including land, air and sea that are the source of military tension and conflict.

The two sides agreed to cease various military exercises aimed at each other along the Military Demarcation Line, or MDL, effective Nov. 1.

On the ground, the two sides agreed to cease all live-fire artillery drills and field training ex-

ercises at the regiment level and above within 3 miles from the MDL.

At sea, the two sides agreed to cease all live-fire and maritime maneuver exercises within the zone north of Deokjeok-do and south of Cho-do in the West Sea and within the zone north of Sokcho and south of Tongcheon in the East Sea.

The two sides also agreed to install covers on the barrels of coastal artillery and ship guns and close all gunports within the zones.

In the air, the two sides agreed to ban tactical live-fire drills involving fixed-wing aircraft, including the firing of air-to-ground guided weapons within the designated No Fly Zones in the eastern and western regions of the MDL.

The two sides agreed to designate No Fly Zones for all aircraft types above the MDL effective Nov. 1 in the following way:

For fixed-wing aircraft, No Fly Zones will be designated within 25 miles from the MDL in the east ... and within 13 miles from the MDL in the west.

Other No Fly Zones will be designated in the following way:

For rotary-wing aircraft, within 17 miles from the MDL; for unmanned aerial vehicles within 10 miles from the MDL in the east 7 miles from the MDL in the west for hot-air balloons within 16 miles from the MDL.

However, when the employment of aircraft becomes necessary such as in the cases involving fire-fighting, ground and maritime rescue, medical evacuation, weather observation and farming support, aircraft will be permitted to fly subject to prior notification to the other side. The No Fly Zones do not apply to commercial aircraft, including cargo planes.

The two sides agreed to take measures to prevent any acciden-

tal military clash at all times in every domain, including land, air and sea.

The two sides agreed to solve all military issues through peaceful consultations by maintaining permanent communication channels in order to prevent at all times any accidental military clash in every domain, including land, air and sea, and by immediately notifying each other when an abnormal situation arises.

2) South and North Korea agreed to devise substantive military measures to transform the Demilitarized Zone into a peace zone.

The two sides agreed to completely withdraw all Guard Posts that lie within one-half mile of each other as a preliminary measure to withdrawing all Guard Posts within the DMZ.

The two sides agreed to demilitarize the Joint Security Area.

The two sides agreed to proceed with a pilot project of an inter-Ko-

rean joint operation to recover remains within the DMZ.

3) South and North Korea agreed to take military measures to prevent accidental military clashes and ensure safe fishing activities by turning the area around the Northern Limit Line in the West Sea into a maritime peace zone.

The two sides agreed to devise military assurance measures for the shared use of the Han River (Imjin River) Estuary.

4) South and North Korea agreed to devise military assurance measures necessary for invigorating exchanges, cooperation, contacts and visits.

5) South and North Korea agreed to devise various measures for mutual military confidence building.

6) This agreement is effective from the date of exchange of the signed documents, following the procedures required for ratification from each party.

NATION

Kavanaugh accuser commits to Thursday Senate hearing

By LISA MASCARO,
MARY CLARE JALONICK
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorneys for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, and the Senate Judiciary Committee have reached agreement for a public hearing Thursday as talks continued Sunday to resolve potentially make-or-break details, such as potential witnesses who could corroborate her decades-old sexual assault claim.

Ford committed to an "open" hearing after negotiators convened a call on Sunday, her attorneys said in a statement. A spokesman for the committee's chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, confirmed the meeting would be set at 10 a.m. Thursday.

"We've made important progress," said Ford's attorneys Debra S. Katz, Lisa J. Banks, and Michael R. Bromwich. "Dr. Ford believes it is important for senators to hear directly from her about the sexual assault committed against her. She has agreed to move forward."

Terms of their appearances are still being negotiated, but several details have been resolved.

Ford agreed that she will testify after Kavanaugh, rather than going first, as she had preferred, according to a source familiar with the talks who was unauthorized to discuss the talks publicly and was granted anonymity.

Who will be asking the questions remains unresolved, the lawyers said.

Republicans have been trying to hire an outside female counsel who could take over the questioning. The 11 senators on the GOP side of the dais are all men, which could send an unwanted message on live television against the backdrop of the #MeToo era so close to the midterm election. They could also use staff attorneys to the Republican majority on the committee.

"We were told no decision has been made on this important issue, even though various senators have been dismissive of her account and should have to shoulder their responsibility to ask her questions," the attorneys said.

The attorneys said they did not know when they

would have answers to the unresolved issues.

A final accord could bring to a close days of brinkmanship that have rolled Washington ahead of midterm elections and threatened to jeopardize Kavanaugh's confirmation to the court, even as some Republicans say the additional hearings may do little to change their support for him.

Earlier Sunday, Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said lawyers for Ford are contesting two GOP conditions of the proposed 10 a.m. Thursday hearing — that Ford and Kavanaugh will be the only witnesses and that an independent counsel will ask the questions.

"If they continue to contest those two things, there won't be a hearing," Graham said. "We're not going to let her determine how many people we call" and on outside counsel. "I hope she comes."

Graham, speaking on "Fox News Sunday," promised a fair hearing in which both Ford and Kavanaugh "will be challenged" but said "unless there's something more" to back up her accusation, then he's "not going to ruin Judge Kavanaugh's life over this."

One issue that appears to have been resolved is the committee's refusal to subpoena Mark Judge, the other person Ford alleges was in the room when the assault occurred when they were high school age. Sen. Dick Durbin, a Democrat on the committee, said Sunday he believed Ford's requests have been "reasonable" and that she deserves a fair hearing to determine whether her allegations are "serious" enough to vote down Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination.

He acknowledged that lawmakers will "probably not" be able to know the truth of Ford's decades-old accusation that Kavanaugh assaulted her at a house party when they were teenagers. But Durbin left little doubt that Democrats will go after Kavanaugh's drinking history to help shed light on the matter. Ford has alleged Kavanaugh was "stumbling drunk" when it happened.

Durbin told ABC's "This Week" that some Republicans "reached out to Democratic senators and assured them that they are looking to this as kind of a determination as to how their final vote" on Kavanaugh is cast.

Tensions have been running on overdrive since Ford went public with her allegation that Kavanaugh assaulted her when they in high school. Kavanaugh, an appellate court judge, denied the allegation and said he wanted to testify as soon as possible to clear his name.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein attends a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Sept. 4. President Donald Trump's advisers are urging him to not dismiss Rosenstein.

Advisers urge Trump not to fire Rosenstein

By DEVLIN BARRETT,
ROBERT COSTA
AND JOSH DAWESEY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Advisers to President Donald Trump are counseling him against firing Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein over memos written by the former acting director of the FBI that say Rosenstein proposed secretly recording the president and pushed for his removal from office.

The details of the memos written by former deputy FBI director Andrew McCabe when he was acting director were revealed Friday, prompting immediate speculation that the information would give Trump the justification to do what he has long desired: dismiss Rosenstein, the Justice Department official overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller III's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

But those close to Trump and some of his allies on Capitol Hill believe that a politically charged firing in advance of the midterm elections will feed a Democratic narrative of chaos in the administration, and that the president should wait until November to make any issues at the Justice Department.

Rosenstein issued a public statement disputing the accuracy of the New York Times story that described the memos written by McCabe and his then-in-house counsel, FBI lawyer Lisa Page.

On Friday evening, Rosenstein was summoned to the White House, where Chief of Staff John Kelly demanded to know whether the accounts were accurate and, if not, urged Rosenstein to issue a more forceful denial.

Trump spent much of Friday evening on Air Force One, where he polled advisers about whether he should fire Rosenstein, according to a White House official. In those discussions, the president said the story confirmed what he knew all along — that Justice De-

partment officials were out to get him, according to the adviser.

The president continued to discuss the issue with aides and associates on Saturday, and said he was more suspicious than furious about the reports, peering through his inner circle with a round of questions about whether he was being "baited" into taking action that could imperil his presidency because McCabe took some notes about private conversations, as one ally close to him put it. White House aides who spoke to Trump said he was less angry than they expected.

Inside the top ranks of the Republican Party, there are also discussions about what a Rosenstein firing could mean for this year's midterm elections, which are just weeks away.

Several veteran Republicans communicated to friends at the White House on Saturday that any major upheaval at the Justice Department could trigger a political hurricane for the GOP to weather in an already difficult year. The White House, through various back channels, made clear that no such shake-up was coming, according to two Republicans in touch with Trump administration officials.

Even as Trump publicly rails against the Justice Department as a den of corruption with a "lingering stench," as the president told his supporters at a rally in Missouri on Friday, he has come to privately appreciate Rosenstein as a competent official who, in his view, is far sharper than embattled Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the advisers said.

According to aides, Trump is likely to fire Sessions after the election anyway and removing Rosenstein now would only serve to hurt Republicans facing voters in a few weeks. As a result of the discussions, advisers to the president said he is unlikely to fire Rosenstein in the near term, but still would like to eventually remove him.

WHO: Excessive drinking killed more than 3 million people in 2016

Associated Press

Drinking too much alcohol killed more than 3 million people in 2016, mostly men, the World Health Organization said.

The U.N. health agency also warned that current policy responses are not sufficient to reverse trends predicting an increase in consumption over the next 10 years.

In a new report Friday, the agency said about 237 million men and 46 million women faced alcohol problems, with the highest prevalence in Europe and the Americas. Europe has the highest global per capita alcohol consumption, even though it has dropped by 10 percent since 2010.

Around a third of alcohol-related deaths were a result of in-

juries, including car crashes and self-harm, while about one in five were due to either digestive disorders or cardiovascular diseases. Cancers, infectious diseases, mental disorders and other health conditions were also to blame.

"Far too many people, their families and communities suffer the consequences of the harmful use of alcohol through violence, injuries, mental health problems and diseases like cancer and stroke," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the WHO. "It's time to step up action to prevent this serious threat to the development of healthy societies."

The average daily consumption of alcohol by people who consume it is about two glasses of wine, a large bottle of beer or two shots of

spirits. Globally, about 2.3 billion people are current drinkers.

The report, the third in a series after ones in 2010 and 2014, relies on information from 2016 — the latest data available. The WHO said the trends and projections point to an expected increase in global alcohol per capita consumption over the next decade, particularly in Southeast Asia and the Americas.

The Distilled Spirits Council, which advocates for the industry in the U.S., said in a statement it supports the WHO's goal to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

"However, we are concerned that some policy recommendations such as increasing alcohol taxes are misguided and don't effectively address harmful consumption," it said.

NATION

A week later, Florence's flooding lingers

Associated Press

BLADENBORO, N.C. — Major flooding remains in eastern North Carolina more than a week after Hurricane Florence made landfall.

Gov. Roy Cooper said Saturday that nine of the state's river gauges are at major flood stage and four others are at moderate stage, while parts of Interstates 95 and 40 will remain underwater for another week or more. Emergency management officials said residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed will begin moving into hotel rooms this week.

"Hurricane Florence has deeply wounded our state, wounds that will not fade soon as the floodwaters finally recede," Cooper said.

South Carolina also has ordered more evacuations as rivers continue to rise in the aftermath of a storm that has claimed at least 43 lives since slamming into the coast more than a week ago.

The small farming community of Nichols, S.C., about 40 miles from the coast, was completely inundated by water, Mayor Lawson Batter said Saturday. He called the situation "worse than Matthew," the 2016 hurricane that destroyed almost 90 percent



Dozens of homes are surrounded by floodwaters brought to the area by Hurricane Florence in Pender County, N.C., on Saturday.

of the town's 261 homes. Battle said flooding from Florence has wiped out the 150 or so homes rebuilt afterward.

"It's just a mess," said Battle, who was awaiting a visit from Gov. Henry McMaster. "We will try everything we can to come back ... but we need to have federal and state help."

In Wilmington, where Hurricane Florence made landfall and

which had been cut off by floodwaters, officials said they'd identified three safe routes into town. They encouraged people to avoid travel in areas where the risk of flooding remains.

North Carolina Emergency Management Director Michael Sprayberry said Saturday that eastern counties continue to see major flooding, including areas along the Black, Lumber, Neuse

and Cape Fear rivers. The Cape Fear river was expected to crest Sunday and remain at flood stage through early this week.

He said residents who register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency can begin moving into hotels Monday. The program initially will be open to residents in nine counties, then will be expanded. A FEMA coordinator said about 69,000 people

from North Carolina already have registered for assistance.

North Carolina environmental officials said they're closely monitoring two sites where Florence's floodwaters have inundated coal ash sites.

The National Weather Service confirmed Saturday that 10 tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Florence touched down Sept. 17 in Virginia, the strongest of which leveled a flooring company in Chesterfield and killed one worker.

An economic research firm estimated that Hurricane Florence has caused around \$44 billion in damage and lost output, which would make it one of the top 10 costliest U.S. hurricanes. The top disaster, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, cost \$192.2 billion in today's dollars, while last year's Hurricane Harvey cost \$133.5 billion.

Moody's Analytics estimates Florence has caused \$40 billion in damage and \$4 billion in lost economic output, though the company stressed that the estimate is preliminary and could go higher or lower.

McMaster has estimated damage from the flood in his state at \$1.2 billion. He asked congressional leaders to hurry federal aid.

Rains deluge Oklahoma; 1 dead in Texas flooding

Associated Press

DALLAS — A storm system dumped record amounts of rain in parts of Oklahoma and caused flooding in Texas, including in the Dallas area, where floodwaters swept a man from a bridge to his death near the University of Texas' campus in nearby Arlington.

"(A) witness ... stated that the victim was swept under a bridge by rushing waters," shortly before midnight Friday, according to Arlington Fire Department Lt. Mike Joiner.

The man's body was found a few hours later. His name hasn't been released.

The Dallas Fire Department said at least 15 people were rescued from the rising waters about 7 a.m. Saturday, including five Dallas police officers and a motorist. The officers became trapped while trying to rescue the motorist.

Up to 45 homes in Everman, south of Fort Worth, were damaged by floodwaters as some residents were forced to scramble onto roofs to escape rising water.

"We had residents stranded up on top of their homes. People begging for help, screaming for help," Everman Police Chief Craig Spencer told KXAS-TV.

Austin fire officials said some 60 people attending a wedding reception were rescued from rising waters that surrounded the venue early Saturday. Some at the recep-

tion were forced to climb trees to avoid the water, officials said.

In the Central Texas city of Killeen, patients were evacuated to other medical care facilities when a lightning strike knocked out power to Metroplex Hospital. Thirty-four patients were transported and there were no reports of injuries, according to a hospital statement.

A record 14 inches of rain fell Friday at the Oklahoma Climatological Survey's site in Pittsboro, about 75 miles southeast of Oklahoma City, and more than 2 additional inches fell before noon Saturday, said National Weather Service meteorologist Forrest Mitchell in Norman. The previous record of just less than 7 inches was set in July 1997, according to Mesonet records.

The downpours and threat of more rain has also forced cancellation of events from the Dallas area to northeastern Arkansas, including a balloon festival in Plano and the Northeast Arkansas District Fair in Jonesboro, 390 miles away, where the already wet grounds were expected to be inundated by additional rain.

The weather service has said a zone of low-pressure over West Texas, tropical moisture off the Gulf of Mexico and an approaching cold front combined to produce the heavy rain that was moving into Arkansas, prompting flash flood watches until Sunday morning.

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NATION



JANICE WEI, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/AP

Saturday was the first day tourists were allowed to return to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park since volcanic activity forced it to close for more than four months. The eruption destroyed hundreds of homes outside the park and changed the park's popular summit crater.

Tourists return to changed volcano park

By CALEB JONES
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A national park in Hawaii has reopened after being closed for more than four months because of Kilauea volcano's latest eruption, which caused widespread damage to park infrastructure and dramatically changed its landscape.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park officials said there were no lines or waiting for visitors to catch a glimpse of the volcano that made headlines across the world when it began erupting in May. Admission was free Saturday.

The eruption destroyed hundreds of homes outside the park while changing the popular summit crater inside the park.

The national park — normally the state's most-visited tourist attraction — had been closed for 135 days as volcanic activity caused explosive eruptions, earthquakes and the collapse of the famed Halemaumau crater. Ash clouds shot skyward from the summit crater and blanketed the region in volcanic debris.

Kilauea has been active for decades. But the eruption that began in May has transformed both the park and the rural Big Island coastline that surrounds it.

Outside the park, lava flows consumed entire neighborhoods, filled an ocean bay and created miles of new shoreline with fresh black sand beaches and jagged rocky outcrops.

Inside the park, molten rock drained from the summit lava lake and vanished from view as the landscape underwent a monumental change.

The summit crater floor sunk



Left: A distinct gas plume rises on Nov. 28, 2008, from the vent that had opened within Halemaumau about eight months earlier. Right: The crater is shown on Aug. 1. Recent volcanic activity led officials to close the park for 135 days.

USGS/AP

‘The changes we’ve seen at the summit are much more dramatic than anything that’s happened in the last 200 years.’

Ingrid Johanson

research geophysicist at U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

1,500 feet, and the overall Kilauea caldera widened — expanding more than 1 square mile, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It quadrupled in size as lava drained out of the active vent.

“This eruption was really unprecedented in the historic record,” Ingrid Johanson, a research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

“The changes we’ve seen at the

summit are much more dramatic than anything that’s happened in the last 200 years.”

The crater looks “completely different,” Johanson said. “I think people are going to be really awestruck when they see it.”

However, one of the park's biggest draws — the radiant red light from the lava lake that has been a Kilauea hallmark for more than a decade — is completely gone.

“There is no glow at all,” said Shanelle Saunders, the park's

acting spokeswoman. “You can’t even see your hand in front your face it’s so dark in a lot of these areas. I mean, the stars right now are incredible, but there’s actually no flowing lava.”

The park will be open 24 hours a day, but visitors should be careful at night because of new cracks in trails and walkways. “Even if people are really familiar with those trails, they may have changed since they’ve been here,” Saunders said.

Public access to the volcano remains limited because of damage to its infrastructure. But visitors can once again hike around some parts of the summit area and see the aftermath of the historic eruption.

“The crater rim trail is open to a certain point,” Saunders said. “And from there, they can see down into the crater itself.”

The theme of this year’s National Public Lands Day is “resilience and restoration,” said Hawaii Volcanoes National Park spokeswoman Jessica Ferracane, who noted that park repair work had been pointing toward a late-September reopening.

“We really wanted to invite visitors back without them having to pay on that first day,” Ferracane said.

“The theme was so uncanny that we thought it would be a real good fit.”

While volcanic activity has slowed significantly in the past month and no lava is reaching the surface at Kilauea, scientists aren’t ready to declare the latest eruption over.

“There is still material that could feed into an eruption,” Johanson said. “I definitely expect that lava will return one day.”

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WORLD

Iran's president blames US after parade attack

BY NASSER KARIMI
AND JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday that an unnamed U.S.-allied country in the Persian Gulf was behind an attack on a military parade that killed 25 people and wounded nearly 70.

Rouhani did not identify those behind Saturday's attack, which was claimed by an Arab separatist group. He could have been referring to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates or Bahrain — close U.S. military allies that view Iran as a regional menace over its support for militant groups across the Middle East.

"All of those small mercenary countries that we see in this region are backed by America. It is Americans who instigate them and provide them with necessary means to commit these crimes," Rouhani said.

Saturday's attack, in which militants disguised as soldiers opened fire on an annual Ira-

nian military parade in Ahvaz, in the oil-rich southwest, was the deadliest attack in the country in nearly a decade. Women and children scattered along with oncemarching Revolutionary Guard soldiers as heavy gunfire rang out, the chaos captured live on state television.

The region's Arab separatists, once only known for nighttime attacks on unguarded oil pipelines, claimed responsibility for the assault, and Iranian officials appeared to believe the claim. Iran summoned diplomats from Britain, Denmark and the Netherlands early Sunday for allegedly harboring "members of the terrorist group" that launched the attack.

The ministry later summoned the envoy of the United Arab Emirates as well over what it called the "irresponsible and insulting statements" of an Emirati adviser, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had earlier blamed regional countries and



FATMEH RAHIMAVAN, FARIS NEWS AGENCY/AP

A woman takes her children to a shelter as an army member tries to help them during a shooting at a military parade in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, Iran, on Saturday.

their "U.S. masters" for funding and arming the separatists, issuing a stark warning as regional tensions remain high in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal.

"Iran will respond swiftly and decisively in defense of Iranian lives," Zarif wrote on Twitter.

The attack killed at least 25 people and wounded nearly 70, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. It said gunmen wore military uniforms and targeted a riser where military and police commanders were sitting. State TV hours later reported that all four gunmen had been killed.

At least eight of the dead served in the Revolutionary Guard, an elite paramilitary unit that an-

swers only to Iran's supreme leader, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Tensions have been on the rise since President Donald Trump's administration pulled out of the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran earlier this year and began restoring sanctions that were eased under the deal. It also has steadily ramped up pressure on Iran to try to get it to stop what Washington calls its "malign activities" in the region.

The U.S. government nevertheless strongly condemned Saturday's attack and expressed its sympathy, saying it "condemns all acts of terrorism and the loss of any innocent lives."

Victims want US to bar Abbas from UN meeting

JERUSALEM — A group of American victims of Palestinian violence are asking President Donald Trump to bar Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas from entering the United States for the annual United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The group appealed Sunday for Trump to declare Abbas a "persona non grata" because of the Palestinian Authority's payment of stipends to relatives of their families' killers.

The group includes the families of 15 other American citizens killed by Palestinians, including Ari Fuld, who was killed last week.

Burials begin as deaths from capsized ferry rise

NAIROBI, Kenya — Tanzania's State broadcaster said burials have started of those who died when a ferry capsized on Lake Victoria as the death toll rose to 224.

Tanzania Broadcasting Corp. said Sunday that Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is leading mourners at the funeral service.

On Saturday rescuers found a survivor two days after the tragedy. The man was identified as an engineer of the ferry who had locked himself in the engine room.

Police: Maoist rebels fatally shoot lawmaker

HYDERABAD, India — Maoist insurgents fatally shot a state lawmaker visiting a tribal area in southern India on Sunday after the insurgents put up posters warning politicians not to travel there, police said.

At least 40 Maoist rebels were involved in the attack on Kidari Sarveshwara Rao, an Andhra Pradesh state assembly member from the ruling Telugu Desam party, according to Visakhapatnam district police superintendent Rahul Dev Sharma.

Former lawmaker Siveri Soma was also killed in the attack.

The killings are the latest in a long-simmering conflict between the Communist Party of India Maoist group and the Indian government.

China summons US envoys over sanctions

BEIJING — China summoned the American ambassador and the defense attaché and recalled its navy commander from a U.S. trip to deliver a strong protest against economic sanctions Washington lodged over the purchase of Russian fighter jets and surface-to-air missile equipment.

The Defense Ministry said the U.S. had no right to interfere in Chinese military cooperation with Russia.

Washington said China's purchase of the weapons from Rosobornexport, Russia's main arms exporter, violated a 2017 law intended to punish the government of Russian President Vladimir Putin for interfering in U.S. elections and other activities.

From The Associated Press

Pope warns Lithuanians about anti-Semitism

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

KAUNAS, Lithuania — Pope Francis warned Sunday against any rebirth of the "pernicious" anti-Semitic attitudes that fueled the Holocaust as he marked the annual remembrance for Lithuania's centuries-old Jewish community that was nearly wiped out during World War II.

Francis began his second day in the Baltics in Lithuania's second-largest city, Kaunas, where an estimated 3,000 Jews survived out of a community of 37,000 during the 1941-44 Nazi occupation.

During Mass in Santakos Park under a brilliant autumn sun, Francis honored both Jewish victims of the Nazis and the Lithuanians who were deported to Siberian gulags or were tortured, killed and oppressed at home during five decades of Soviet occupation.

Francis recalled that Sunday marked the 75th anniversary of the final destruction of the Ghetto in the capital Vilnius, which had been known for centuries as the "Jerusalem of the North" for its importance to Jewish



MINDAUGAS KULIŠ/AP

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, right, welcomes Pope Francis at the airport in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Saturday.

thought and politics. Each year, the Sept. 23 anniversary is commemorated with readings of the names of Jews who were killed by Nazis or Lithuanian partisans or were deported to

concentration camps.

The pope warned against the temptation "that can dwell in every human heart" to want to be superior or dominant to others. And he prayed for the gift of discernment "to detect in time any new seeds of that pernicious attitude, any whiff of it that can taint the heart of generations that did not experience those times and can sometimes be taken in by such siren songs."

Francis will also visit the former KGB headquarters in Vilnius that is now a museum dedicated to Soviet atrocities, and will hear from Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius, who was persecuted by the Soviet regime and was detained in the facility's chambers.

Francis is traveling to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to mark their 100th anniversaries of independence and to encourage the faith in the Baltics, which saw five decades of Soviet-imposed religious repression and state-sponsored atheism. Lithuania is 80 percent Catholic; Lutherans and Russian Orthodox count more followers in Latvia and Estonia, where Francis visits on Monday and Tuesday.

Mexico releases images of clothing found in mass grave

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican authorities have released images of clothing from a clandestine mass grave in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz where 174 human skulls were uncovered in recent weeks.

The National Commission of Missing Persons on Friday invited relatives of the missing to look at the pictures for clues. The items include polo shirts with logos still intact, socks, shoes, colorful boxer briefs and women's

panties. One T-shirt says "Live Free" above a picture of a young woman and flowers.

The Interior Ministry said that digging continues and that the picture catalog will be updated with additional garments as they

are found.

Authorities announced the discovery in early September after having counted 166 skulls. The site is one of the biggest burial pits to date amid rising violence in Mexico.

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Lt. Col. Sean Kirmke, Europe commander
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacciolli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com
+1(202)761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9150, DSN (314)583.9150

Europe

Van Rowell, rowell.van@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81.3.6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington

tel. +1(202) 761.0900, DSN (312) 763.0900;
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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OPINION

NCAA's focus on athletes' education is phony

By Patrick Hruby
Special To The Washington Post

When it comes to preventing young athletes from earning a fair share of the more than \$8 billion a year generated by college sports, the National Collegiate Athletic Association is akin to a moralizing street mugger. It's not enough for the organization to flash a knife and demand players' wallets; it also has to tell everyone within earshot that, no, actually, empty pockets are good. That's how the NCAA argues that its amateurism rules — which limit player compensation to tuition, room, board and small cost-of-living stipends, but do not restrict sports administrators such as Alabama football coach Nick Saban from collecting millions — are necessary and justified because they protect and enhance athletes' educations.

There's no connection between cash in a player's hands — or a W-2 form in their mailbox — and their ability to open a textbook or show up to class. But that hasn't toppled the NCAA from making this case in the court of public opinion and, more recently, in federal court. In a bench trial overseen by U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken in Oakland, Calif., that is scheduled to end Tuesday, former campus athletes are challenging the organization's pay-for-play prohibition. They argue that it is an antitrust law by restraining competitive bidding among schools for the services of top athletes, similar to how tech giants allegedly conspired to hold down salaries by agreeing to not hire one another's employees. Wilken's ruling could come as soon as December.

If athletes win and withstand a lengthy appeals process, it could utterly transform the plantation economy of big-time college sports. Depending on the scope of Wilken's ruling — she could loosen NCAA restrictions a bit or a lot, or even eliminate them entirely — a gold-medal-winning Olympic swimmer like Katie Ledecky would be able to endorse products without jeopardizing her college eligibility. Football stars such as former University of Georgia running back Todd Gurley could sell their autographs for cash without sending state legislators scrambling to criminalize the act. Individual schools could pay athletes as little or as much as they like — the same way they now pay strength coaches, athletic directors, school presidents, grad students and everyone else with a campus job. (Actually requiring that athletes be paid would be beyond the scope of an antitrust case.)

The NCAA is telling Wilken that paying players would have "staggering and destructive implications" for college sports — and for the educations of campus athletes. "Maintaining amateurism," the organization says on its website, "is crucial to preserving an academic environment in which acquiring a quality education is the first priority."

How so? According to the NCAA, paid players would study less and play sports more. As its former vice president, Oliver Luck, once explained, paychecks and the "opportunity to do an autograph signing, or an endorsement deal" are "the primary motivators" for athletes from "what's really important, which is the educational component."

Moreover, the NCAA asserts that permitting pay would make athletes less integrated into their campus communities. If an "athlete" was being paid and it changed significantly their relationship with the organization, Mark Emmert testified in a previous federal antitrust case, "they probably would not be living in a residence hall. They probably would not be eating in the cafeteria, they probably would not be as active as a member or participant in the life of a campus."

Squint a little, don't think too hard, and



TONY DINE/AP

SMU quarterback William Brown throws a pass against Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Saturday.

both of these justifications sound plausible. But they're utterly divorced from the reality of campus athletics. Take the notion that pay would lead athletes to spend more time on sports-related activities. It's hard to see where they'd find the extra hours. A 2015 survey found that athletes in the Pac-12 Conference spent an average of 50 hours per week on their sports and were often "too exhausted to study effectively."

The previous year, a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that Northwestern University football players qualified as school employees under federal labor law, largely because they spent 40 to 50 hours a week on their sport during the season and up to 25 hours a week during the spring semester — compared with just 20 hours a week on academics. Kain Colter, then the team's quarterback, testified that he was steered away from strenuous classes like chemistry and had to abandon a pre-med major because his sport was too consuming. "You can't ever reach your academic potential with the time demands," he said. "You have to sacrifice, and we're not allowed to sacrifice football."

Eliminating amateurism likely wouldn't make athletes like Colter more distracted or more likely to sacrifice school for sports. It would simply allow them to be compensated for the sacrifices they're already making. Moreover, working and earning while attending college isn't exactly unheard of. According to a Georgetown University study, between 70 and 80 percent of college students are active in the labor market, with roughly 40 percent of undergraduates working at least 30 hours a week and 25 percent of full-time students also working full-time jobs.

NCAA schools don't tell those students what they can and can't earn for the sake of academic focus, any more than Georgetown — my alma mater — told me I couldn't collect a check from my job at the student bookstore because it might distract me from my government homework. Actress Natalie Portman worked on a "Star Wars" film while enrolled at Harvard. Bumble CEO Whitney Wolfe Herd sold tote bags to raise money for animals affected by the

2010 BP oil spill while she was attending Southern Methodist University. Numerous professional athletes — including current Washington Wizards forward Jeff Green and former Baltimore Ravens offensive lineman John Urschel — have completed undergrad and graduate degrees while literally being paid to play sports. Why should campus athletes be held to a separate and unequal standard?

Speaking of Urschel, he played for the Ravens while pursuing a doctorate in math at MIT. Did Emmert fret that he wasn't eating at the school cafeteria? Did the NCAA send someone to check? All anyone needs to know about the assertion made by University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides during the trial that followed a lawsuit brought by former UCLA basketball player Ed O'Bannon that allowing player pay would "drive a wedge" between athletes and their fellow students is this: The same people making those claims are busy using the money they don't spend on athletic labor to build lavish, multimillion-dollar, sports-only training facilities containing barber shops, bowling lanes, movie theaters, beach views and man-made lazy rivers, offering athletes a luxe world separate from the rest of campus.

The NCAA's assertion that if players are paid then they won't study is inarguably paternalistic, arguably racist — would amateurism exist if it was siphoning hundreds of millions of dollars from predominantly white revenue-sport athletes to overwhelmingly black school administrators, and not the other way around? Nevertheless, the argument has worked in court before.

In 2014, William Rehnquist, the NCAA in the O'Bannon suit over the uncompensated use of athletes' names, images and likenesses on television broadcasts and in video games. Finding that NCAA restrictions violated antitrust law, she ordered that schools be allowed to pay athletes at least \$5,000 a year via trust funds that they could use for anything other than college careers. The NCAA appealed her decision, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit nixed the trust funds, finding merit in the organization's education argument by declaring that all athlete compensation needed to be "tethered" to schooling.

This was a mistake. After all, if prohibiting paid pay truly was crucial to making quality education the top priority in college sports, then the NCAA and its member schools would be presiding over a scholastic nirvana, which is not the case. Academic scandals marked by tutor-written coursework and no-show classes are as reliably regular as the changing seasons. A 2014 report from the University of South Carolina's Center for Sport Research Institute found that the graduation rates of football and men's basketball players in the major conferences were 20 to 31.5 percent lower than those of nonathletes. Back in the aughts, a University of Georgia assistant men's basketball coach taught a course, mostly for his players, with a final exam began by asking, "How many goals are on a basketball court?"

A ridiculous question, to be sure. But no more ridiculous than the NCAA pretending to be an academic guardian in order to plunder its on-field workforce. Three years ago, former University of North Carolina athletic director Mark Emmert, then the organization, alleging that they hadn't received legitimate educations because of widespread academic fraud. The NCAA responded by denying any responsibility to "ensure the quality" of their schooling, and it later declined to punish UNC. It was a rare flash of honesty — a lesson for Wilken and the rest of us, too. Amateurism doesn't protect education. It protects schools' bottom lines.

Patrick Hruby is an award-winning Washington, D.C.-based writer, editor and journalist.

OPINION

GOP fell for Trump's overconfidence game

BY WALTER SHAPIRO
CQ-Roll Call

The topic never pops up in statistical analyses or pundit roundtables on cable TV, but one of the most underappreciated factors shaping politics is overconfidence.

Historically, second-term presidents have been particularly vulnerable to arrogant overreach. For eight decades, the prime example has been Franklin Roosevelt's ill-fated plan following his 1936 landslide re-election to pack the Supreme Court with six new justices. (A personal plea: Please don't mention this scheme to Donald Trump.)

Certainly, the 2016 Hillary Clinton campaign deserves its own Measuring-the-Drapes Wing in the Overconfidence Hall of Fame. Perhaps a last swing through Wisconsin and Michigan might not have made a difference since Clinton rallies were often flat and lifeless. But what remains baffling was the decision by the Clinton high command to curtail state polling during the closing weeks of the campaign.

All this brings us to the most laughable manifestation of overconfidence in the 2018 campaign. It comes courtesy of an internal Republican National Committee poll ordered by Joshua Green, of Bloomberg Businessweek.

The survey, conducted in early September, found that 57 percent of devoted Trump

supporters believe there is absolutely no chance the Democrats can take back the House. As the accompanying report, written by polling firm Public Opinion Strategies, bluntly states, "We need to make real the threat that Democrats have a good shot of winning control of Congress."

Think about this for a moment. Convinced that polls are rigged for the Democrats (remember 2016) and conditioned by a president who denounces all criticism as "Fake News," strong Trump backers have convinced themselves that the Republican Congress is an impenetrable fortress.

Maybe this RNC poll just captures a blip — and by November, Trump supporters will come to grasp that GOP majorities in the House and maybe the Senate are imperiled. But, at the moment, the survey illustrates how Trump's insatiable bragging and his unremitting war on reality threatens GOP turnout.

A strong case can be made that the Republican congressional leadership has also overplayed its hand ever since Trump took office. Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan cannot be directly blamed, of course, for Trump's well-documented ignorance, his obsession with Fox News, his vicious attacks on the FBI, his belittling of his own attorney general and his obtuse refusal to understand or even read the bill of rights. But in calculating their own response to the tumult and tantrums of Trump World, McConnell and Ryan gambled that fealty

to the Great Leader represented smart politics for the Republican Party. Now, less than seven weeks before the election, it is looking as if the GOP congressional leadership was wildly overconfident about the degree to which Trump is a political asset when he is not running against Clinton.

Remember that until maybe six months ago, GOP leaders were convinced the massive tax cuts and the booming economy would limit Democratic gains this year. Instead, in a world of Trumped-up diversion, the economy has faded as an election issue. A Gallup national survey last month found that voters are more concerned about "poor leadership" in Washington and related issues than the direction of the economy.

Even though the economy receives high marks in a recent Quinnipiac University National Poll — 69 percent of independent voters described it as excellent or good — the verdict on Trump himself should panic GOP leaders. Only 30 percent of voters describe Trump as "level-headed" and, more worrisome, 48 percent of the electorate believes the president is "mentally stable."

All of this was predictable from the moment Trump took office and, despite many Republican fantasies, failed to magically become presidential. Fearful of primaries and losing Trump's base voters, the GOP congressional leadership forgot about balanced budgets, free trade and standing up for law enforcement agencies. In effect, the Republicans became unmoved as the

party of Trump tweets.

Ryan, of course, took one look at the future on Capitol Hill and headed for the exit. But McConnell had another overweening strategy to save his majority. By rushing Brett Kavanaugh through the Senate in September, McConnell calculated that he would force endangered Democratic senators like North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp to choose either party loyalty (and campaign cash) or her conservative electorate.

In late August — weeks before Christine Blasey Ford came forward — Amy Walter, of The Cook Political Report, offered one of the smartest and most succinct summaries of the 2018 campaign in a tweet: "A good rule of thumb when evaluating how an issue/event will impact R's in the midterms. Does it help GOP reduce yawning gap they have w/ white, suburban women and indies? If it doesn't, then it's bad."

No matter how the Kavanaugh nomination plays out from here, it is impossible to concoct a scenario under which the fight helps the Republicans with female voters.

In the end, it comes down to Republican arrogance in believing that Trump could ever be tamed. Republicans are quickly learning that in politics — as in lion taming — nothing is as dangerous as misplaced overconfidence.

Walter Shapiro, a Roll Call columnist since 2015, has covered the last 10 presidential campaigns. He is also a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU and a lecturer in political science at Yale.

‘Blue Water Navy’ supporters target VA secretary’s hard line

BY TOM PHILLIOTT
Special to Stars and Stripes

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, met Tuesday with Robert Wilkie to try to coax the new Department of Veterans Affairs secretary out of his department's newly stiffened opposition to a House-passed bill that would extend VA health care and compensation to tens of thousands of former sailors and Marines with Agent Orange-associated ailments.

"We haven't convinced him yet," Brown said in a next day phone interview.

Without support from the VA, Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, faces a difficult decision on whether to allow a committee vote this fall on the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR 299).

Without support from the VA, Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, faces a difficult decision on whether to allow a committee vote this fall on the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR 299).

"If we get the VA onboard it will make this a lot easier; I'll just answer it that way," Brown said of prospects for the bill. "Otherwise, I think it will be hard."

We tried polling all 15 senators on the question of how they would impact VA support to HR 299 has had on their support for the bill. A spokesman for Isakson said only that he "is actively working" with the VA, outside stakeholders and his committee "on a path forward on this legislation."

Sens. John Boozman, R-Ark., and Mike Royce, R-La., said they still are reviewing HR 299 and working with colleagues to do "what is

MILITARY UPDATE

best" for veterans.

Meanwhile pressure on Isakson builds. Every major veterans' group and most military associations urged him last week to move the bill out of committee. Their volley of letters responded to Wilkie's own Sept. 6 letter to Isakson explaining on why the VA opposed extending benefits to veterans who served on ships off Vietnam and have ailments associated with exposure to dioxin in Agent Orange.

Wilkie noted again that the latest review of available scientific evidence by the Institute of Medicine, from 2011, concluded that exposure of shipboard personnel to dioxins sprayed over Vietnam "cannot reasonably be determined."

Also, he said, Navy ships were required to draw seawater for conversion to shipboard potable water 12 miles from any river, making the presence of Agent Orange "highly unlikely" and the "dilution factor would have been significant."

He also criticized how the House-passed bill would pay part of the cost of expanding benefits to Blue Water vets by ending an exemption from VA home loan funding fees for certain disabled veterans, those not rated fully and permanently disabled and seeking jump loans. The amount of such loans can start as low \$453,100, or as high as \$679,650, depending on local housing market prices.

If HR 299 becomes law, Wilkie wrote, on a home loan of \$500,000 "a disabled veteran could be required to pay \$12,000 to the VA in funding fees plus interest if rolled into the life of the loan) rather than ... \$11,725 as a down payment, which results in home equity."

Advocates for Blue Water veterans argue Wilkie and staff have fallen into a previous pattern of "cherry-picking" information from scientific reports to conclude there is no scientific basis to support extending

Agent Orange-related benefits.

They also criticize a \$5.5 VA estimate on the cost of HR 299 — a fresh billion over 10 years — as wildly high, and claim the VA exaggerates the impact on home-buying veterans of planned funding fee increases, particularly for disabled veterans.

Former surface warfare officer, retired Navy commander and lawyer John B. Wells, who has served as general counsel to the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association, considers himself the technical expert on the science and shipboard practices that, he argues, support extending Agent Orange benefits. The Slidell, La., attorney also is executive director of a nonprofit corporation that litigates and advocates for veterans, and trains other attorneys on veterans' law.

Wells complained to Wilkie that VA staff for Blue Water issues have no naval operation experience or expertise in hydrology, thermodynamics and other relevant sciences for determining how Agent Orange reached sailors at sea.

"The VA consistently cherry picks through the (IOM) reports taking phrases out of context to support their position," Wells wrote. A comment from the VA, ignored from a 2008 IOM report is that the evidence its research committee "reviewed makes limiting Vietnam service to those who set foot on Vietnamese soil seem inappropriate." The same report offer, he told Wilkie, "Given the available evidence, the committee recommends that members of the Blue Water Navy should not be excluded from the set of Vietnam-era veterans with presumed herbicide exposure."

Regarding the 2011 report finding that Agent Orange exposure by Blue Water Navy veterans "could not reasonably be determined," it needs context, Wells said.

"[What IOM] actually said was: This lack of information makes it impossible to quantify exposures for Blue Water and Brown Water Navy sailors and, so far, for ground troops as well," Wells wrote. Therefore, "If you could not state with certainty whether Blue Water Navy personnel were or were

not exposed to Agent Orange."

And while the IOM was told Navy ships did not typically make potable water within 12 miles of shore, Wells said it also was told that in exceptional circumstances a ship might take up water for distillation close to the coastline.

Mike Yates, national commander of Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Association, wrote separately to Isakson. Among points he made was that naval gunfire support data show many ships operated within 3 nautical miles of the Vietnam coast for periods long enough to mandate water distillation. Also, some Navy ships were provided potable water from barges operating from shore, a practice not known to the IOM before it produced its 2011 report.

More arguments are made in two joint letters to Isakson in mid-September. One is from The Military Coalition, a consortium of 27 veterans groups and military associations, and another from veteran service organizations: Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The second letter reflects a consequential shift of position.

The four large vet groups all now agree they do not support imposing new fees on any service-connected disabled veteran, even for jumbo home loans. If the senators embrace that change, they would have to find other budget offsets to cover the cost of the bill, which the VA contends already were woefully inadequate in the House bill to satisfy balanced budget law requirements.

Also, any change to HR 299 would require the bill's return to the House to be voted on again, increasing the risk that the 115th Congress will run out of time to pass a Blue Water Navy bill. In that case, advocates would have to restart their quest in 2019 with a mix of lawmakers significantly altered by November's election.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email m.udp@aoi.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

WIRED WORLD

Face scans of travelers draw mixed reviews

By LORI ARATANI
The Washington Post

When a facial recognition scanner helped authorities nab a man trying to enter the country using someone else's passport at Dulles International Airport last month, officials heralded the technology as a "step forward" in protecting the U.S. from threats.

Later, when a similar system was unveiled that allows international travelers to have their faces scanned to board flights, officials said it would make the travel experience smoother and more secure by eliminating the need for boarding passes and IDs. Travelers' faces will serve as their identification.

"It's convenient, secure and efficient," said John Wagner, deputy executive assistant commissioner at U.S. Customs and Border Protection's office of field operations. "We just have to find better ways than lining everyone up and manually reviewing [documents]."

But privacy advocates and civil libertarians are concerned about the devices' accuracy and potential misuse of the information they collect, and they say the technology is being rushed into use before it has been fully vetted.

"Right now, there is very little federal law that provides any type of protections or limitations with respect to the use of biometrics in general and the use of facial recognition in particular," said Jeramie Scott, national security counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, which has filed Freedom of Information Act requests seeking details about the program.

At a dozen U.S. airports, customs officers collect photos of travelers' faces when they land in the U.S. At 15 airports, including Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson, Chicago's O'Hare and Dulles, cameras do facial scans of travelers before they leave the country. Facial recognition has been used in more than 3 million instances by Customs and Border Protection since June 2017.

CBP says the program will expand to all U.S. airports with international service.

Privacy advocates agree that efforts to improve the travel experience probably will be welcomed by anyone who's ever trudged through an airport with their baggage, but they say requiring people to submit to facial scanning goes too far. The government, they say, needs to do a better job of explaining why the scans are needed, how it intends to use the information and how long the information will be kept, among other things.

Adam Schwartz, senior staff attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said a system that uses biometrics — particularly facial scans — presents unique challenges to a person's privacy and security because those characteristics can't be changed once they are acquired.

"You can't change your face the way you can change a license plate," he said.

Congress has pushed for more than a decade to develop programs that would use biometrics to track those who enter and



BILL O'LEARY/The Washington Post

Station manager Chad Shane, of SAS Airlines, takes a traveler through the scanning process recently at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va. The facial scans can be compared with stored passport and visa photos.

exit the country. In 2016, it authorized up to \$1 billion collected from certain visa fees to fund its implementation. The effort received another boost when President Donald Trump signed an executive order in March 2017 directing the Department of Homeland Security to expedite implementation.

'A lot of opportunities'

Improvements in technology have made facial recognition scans a more attractive option for identifying the more than 350,000 international travelers who move through CBP's systems daily. Cameras are smaller and cheaper. Facial scans often take less time than collecting fingerprints. The improvements also have made airports and airlines more willing to try the programs — especially with the promise that they could speed the boarding process and move travelers through customs more quickly.

"The industry vision, broadly, is getting away from paper and the historical approaches for the air travel process," said Matthew Cornelius, vice president of air policy for Airports Council International — North America, a trade group that advocates for airports. "With biometrics, there really are a lot of opportunities and possibilities."

The scans are optional for U.S. citizens, but it's not clear whether travelers are aware that they can refuse. CBP said it communicates the information through signs at airports, but critics contend that people often don't read what's posted and unwittingly allow themselves to be scanned. Here's how it works: Travelers from outside the U.S. who fly into Atlanta, Orlando, John F. Kennedy, Miami, San Diego, San Jose and Los Angeles international airports and on certain flights into Houston International, have their faces scanned at customs before entering the country. The scans are required for foreign nationals entering and leaving the country. First-time visitors also must provide their fingerprints.

The scans are compared with images CBP stores on what it says are secure systems and in the cloud. The stored images can include passport photos or photos submitted with visa applications.

At Dulles, the system has caught two people — a 26-year-old woman and a 26-year-old man — traveling with passports

that did not belong to them. The woman, detected earlier this month, had a U.S. passport but was a Ghanaian citizen. The man, nabbed in August, was traveling with a French passport; officers found his identification card from Congo Republic hidden in his shoe. In both cases, the passport photos did not match the facial scans.

CBP officials said the two incidents were the first times impostors had been caught by the new technology.

Foreign visitors who leave the U.S. from certain airports also have their faces scanned before they board. Airports and airlines are piloting different versions of the biometric program, but at Dulles, travelers have their pictures taken with iPads installed at departure gates. Each passenger's image then is compared with a "gallery" of images pulled from DHS records, including passport or visa photos of all travelers on the flight. If the images match, the screen flashes green, and the person is allowed to board. If there is a mismatch, the screen flashes red, and the person could be pulled aside for additional screening.

Scans of children younger than 14 are not required. Airlines and airports do have access to either the stored images or the ones taken at the gate, officials said.

Questions of legality

A recent demonstration of the technology on an SAS flight bound for Copenhagen showed how quickly it can move passengers from the gate to the plane. For now, gate agents must manually review passports. Eventually, though, only a facial scan will be needed to board.

Tad Siembida, 73, watched skeptically as other passengers used the system.

"I have mixed feelings," he said. "It's like GPS knowing where I am. You lose your privacy, and I like my anonymity."

Nevertheless, the retired postal worker from Ohio relented.

"At my age, they probably have all kinds of information on me anyway," he said with a shrug.

CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan explained how the technology improved boarding at the Los Angeles airport. Officials were able to load an A380 with more than 350 passengers in less than 20 minutes — half the time it normally would take.

"Facial recognition and the capability

that it provides is really the next step," McAleenan said. "It's user-friendly, it's fast, it's flexible and it's cost-effective, and we believe it will change the face of international travel both in the boarding process and in the speed and security of international arrivals."

Officials said photos of U.S. citizens are deleted once their identities have been confirmed. With noncitizens, photos taken when they arrive are stored in CBP's system for 75 years. Photos taken when they depart are deleted after 14 days.

But critics who have watched the rapid deployment of the technology say there are trade-offs for that convenience. Once the system is in place, they say, there are no guarantees that it won't be expanded.

"We need to take a step back because there will be consequences that we might not think about unless we sit down and have a meaningful discussion," said Scott, of the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

There also are questions about the legality of collecting biometric information from U.S. citizens.

A study last year by researchers at Georgetown University Law School's Center on Privacy and Technology noted that while Congress has passed legislation authorizing the collection of biometric data from noncitizens, it never explicitly has authorized the collection of that information from citizens.

"If Congress had wanted to tell DHS to collect Americans' biometrics at the border, it could easily have done so," the report's authors wrote. "It never has. Without explicit authorization, DHS cannot and should not be scanning the faces of Americans as they depart on international flights, as it is currently doing."

It's also unclear whether the scans are more effective than the previous system, which used data from passports and other travel documents to identify people. A 2014 study by the Immigration Task Force of the Bipartisan Policy Center said biometric exit records "offer mixed value" for the government's efforts to crack down on travelers who overstay their visas.

The Georgetown report noted that the scans are less effective at correctly identifying people depending on their race or gender and said that Homeland Security's own data found that the system rejected as many as 1 in 25 travelers — even though they had valid travel documents.

FACES



Extending himself

Josh Groban on his serious new album 'Bridges' and his goofy new Netflix sitcom, 'The Good Cop'

Josh Groban — who released a new album on Sept. 21 — is also starring in the Netflix series "The Good Cop."

By MIKAEL WOOD/Los Angeles Times
he last few years have been big ones for Josh Groban, Musical Theater Nut.

In 2015, the pop-classical singer famous for his big voice (and his boyish looks) earned a Grammy nomination for his album "Stages," which featured renditions of classic Broadway tunes from the likes of "Carousel" and "Les Misérables."

The next year, he made his debut on the Great White Way with a starring role in "Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812," an experimental adaptation of Tolstoy's "War and Peace." Then,

in June, he co-hosted the Tony Awards with Sara Bareilles.

"What can I say?" Groban, 37, asked over coffee on a recent morning in Burbank, Calif. "I like diving into things."

Now the Los Angeles native, who dropped out of Carnegie Mellon University when he signed a record deal at age 18, is showcasing two of his other guises.

On Sept. 21, he released "Bridges," a new album that revisits the sweeping style of his early work (but in songs he co-wrote). That same day, Netflix premiered "The Good Cop," a quirky comedy series from "Monk" creator Andy Breckman, in which Groban portrays the squeaky-clean son of a disgraced police officer played by Tony Danza.

Los Angeles Times: What did you learn from doing Broadway?

Groban: It toughened me up. This business is hard any way, but eight shows a week was unlike anything I've experienced before. Broadway also teaches you the power of collaboration. You're a cog in a wheel. This was an ensemble cast, and most of the actors came from way off-Broadway; they were musicians with their own bands or orchestras, which I'd go see every time I had a day off. My album would not have happened if it wasn't for the inspiration I got from the cast.

Were you thinking about the album as you did the show?

You spend a lot of hours in your dressing room, so I had a little keyboard set up and was constantly throwing ideas down on my iPhone. After having done a musical theater album that then led into a Broadway run, I was just feeling that itchiness to write songs again.

Before "Stages," you made two albums of your own tunes, including a relatively stripped-down record produced by Rick Rubin. That one kind of reframed you as a sensitive folkie — not the kid blasting away like a mini Andrea Bocelli.

If there was one thing I felt I could've handled differently with the Rick process, it was that I was so focused on the songwriting that I kind of stopped focusing on my voice for a minute. I said, "I'm a little burnt out having to be the hit-the-money-note guy."

You sound apologetic about it.

Not apologetic — just aware. I was

wound pretty tight when I first went to Rick. There was a certain producing style that I was used to, which was very performance-driven. Each day you had to leave a pint of blood.

Do you think you succeeded in establishing a more realistic picture of Josh Groban?

I think I did all right. My fanbase was split down the middle. But it certainly opened a confidence zone in me to feel like I could approach these albums from a more personal space, whatever the style of production. I realized I don't need the magic feather — it's something I have in me, and I can continue to do it.

Because it seemed less personal, "Stages" struck me as something of a retreat.

When I was doing the Rick record, I got a lot of kudos from journalists: "I appreciate that you're taking this risk." But I think there's sometimes a consensus that stepping out of your lane is commendable, but then, when you make a conscious decision to hit the sweet spot of what your voice wants to do really well — that somehow the energy and the work that goes into that is not as valid because it doesn't have the edge quotient. I was terrified making a musical theater record!

Why?

Because I didn't dream of being a singer-songwriter when I was five years old. — I dreamed of singing the songs on "Stages." People said writing songs was brave, but I was fearless going into that; I was living my teenage rebellion at, like, 30. With "Stages," I felt a reverence and a nervousness about singing those

songs, and I had to dig myself out of that hole emotionally every time I went into the vocal booth.

"Bridges" finds a middle ground between the two approaches. It uses powerful vocals to tell intimate stories.

I agree. It's got what I wanted to say about my own life experiences. But I wasn't afraid to reestablish a certain sound to my singing.

So you've done all this work to dismantle the widely held image of you as an angelic boy wonder. But on TV, you're basically back to that in "The Good Cop."

The other characters call me the choirboy.

Exactly! What a perverse choice.

My character is tone-deaf, though, so there's no angelic singing, at least. Look, there were many years where I might not have been comfortable being that earnest because I felt at the time that the whole picture of me wasn't entirely accurate. Now that I've been able to do some weird stuff, I feel lucky to have an opportunity to do something like this. And the difference is that I'm taking ownership of that perception — I'm doing it in a tongue-in-cheek way.

Your portrayal is funnier because of what we know of your history.

Totally. Knowing that Andy Breckman was a wink and a nudge — that did not go unnoticed by me when I read the pilot. Also, anytime you're playing somebody with "good" in the title, there's all kinds of room to break bad.

Black Eyed Peas tackle topics in videos

The Black Eyed Peas tackle gun violence at schools and immigration in two new music videos for their song "Big Love."

The trio released the videos Sept. 21. Proceeds from the song will benefit the student-led March for Our Lives organization, calling for stricter gun laws, and Families Belong Together, a protest against the Trump administration policy of separating children from families after they are detained illegally crossing the U.S. border.

In the video confronting gun violence at schools, will.i.am and Taboo — who portray a teacher and a gym coach — are shot by a gunman along with several students, while others run for safety. Apl.de.ap is a police officer in the clip.

The second video focuses on officers stopping immigrants from crossing the U.S. border.

Unreleased Chris Cornell songs to be released

New Chris Cornell music is being released more than a year after his death.

Cornell's widow Vicky is behind the new album "Chris Cornell," as well as a four-disc box set. Both will be released Nov. 16.

The first track from both projects is titled "When Bad Does Good." Vicky Cornell says it came from her husband's archives.

The box set will contain 11 unreleased tracks.

Both projects will include his solo work, as well as music made with Audioslave, Soundgarden and Temple of the Dog.

Vicky Cornell says the album is for his fans and she wanted to remind people of all different aspects of him — he was friend, husband and father, the risk taker and innovator, the poet and artist.

Cornell died in May 2017 at 52 and his death was ruled a suicide.

Other news

■ Former rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight pleaded no contest Sept. 20 to voluntary manslaughter for running over and killing a businessman nearly four years ago. The Death Row Records co-founder ended the plea in Los Angeles Superior Court and has agreed to serve 28 years in prison. The plea came days before jury selection was scheduled to begin.

■ Talk show diva Wendy Williams feels lucky to be alive after more than a decade of cocaine abuse and now wants to help others be present in their own lives. Williams has been giving back through the Hunter Foundation, created with husband Kevin Hunter, since 2014. The two recently added a new anti-drug initiative, BeHefore.org. Their goal is to raise \$10 million in five years to fund such things as drug treatment facilities and research, the latter focused on the synthetic marijuana K2. She says substance abuse and addiction are discussed and dealt with much more openly today, but there's a long way to go before complete acceptance.

■ Singer Elton John and partner David Furnish have accepted an apology and undisclosed settlement damages over a newspaper report that their dog severely injured a child while on a play date.

From wire reports

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

University's champion tree may get more room

LA LAFAYETTE — A state champion tree at a Louisiana university campus may get more room to grow larger.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is considering moving a greenhouse to make room for the big Montezuma cypress. Workers have removed four concrete parking spaces, and university officials are planning for a deck with seating around the tree.

Montezuma cypress are native to Mexico and Guatemala and are found in south Texas and south New Mexico, but they're not native to Louisiana. Nobody's certain how this one came to be planted at the Lafayette campus.

It's 60 feet tall and 16 feet around with branches spreading out 80 feet across.

Restaurant that gave lobsters pot investigated

ME SOUTHWEST HARBOR — State health inspectors are investigating a Maine lobster pound that hoped to mellow out lobsters with marijuana.

The Portland Press Herald reported that Charlotte's Legendary Lobster Pound in Southwest Harbor has stopped allowing customers to request meat from lobsters sedated with marijuana. Owner Charlotte Gill is a state-licensed medical marijuana caregiver.

Maine Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Emily Spencer said Friday that whether Gill's plan complies with regulations is up to the Maine Medical Marijuana Program.

Teen girl accused of stabbing fellow student

PA PHILADELPHIA — An eighth-grade girl stabbed a 13-year-old boy in the abdomen with scissors after an altercation in science class Friday, police and school district officials say.

The boy was in stable condition at a hospital.

The stabbing happened as students were transitioning to their next class at the William Dick School, said Lee Whack, a spokesman for the School District of Philadelphia. The students had an altercation in science class, but the teacher de-escalated it and thought it was resolved, he said.

The girl was arrested and the weapon was recovered, according to police.

Vandalism prevents medical flight landing

AK KASIGLUK — An emergency medical flight attempting to land in an Alaska village had to turn back because lights on the runway had been vandalized.

Someone broke 43 runway lights at the airport in Kasigluk, a village of 630 people about 26 miles northwest of Bethel, Alaska State Troopers said.

It was the latest incident in a recurring problem at rural air-



MIKE HENSHELL, THE GASTON (N.C.) GAZETTE/AP

Pushing ahead

Frank Polito is pushed by Scott Johnson during the Speed for Need portion of the Stop Soldier Suicide 10K/5K event Saturday in downtown Belmont, N.C.

ports, said Alaska Department of Transportation spokeswoman Shannon McCarthy.

On Wednesday, someone in the village needed a flight out. Around midnight, a medical flight approached to pick up the patient but was unable to land because lights could not be activated.

Damage to the lights is estimated at \$1,600.

Man admits shipping gun parts to countries

CO PUEBLO — A Colorado man has acknowledged illegally shipping rifle barrels, gun magazines and other firearms parts to Saudi Arabia and Colombia on multiple occasions.

The Pueblo Chieftain reported

Valentino Lopez pleaded guilty in federal court last week to outbound smuggling, which happened in 2014 and 2015.

The Pueblo man shipped some of the firearms parts to a recipient who turned out to be an undercover federal agent, and a search of Lopez's home in December 2015 turned up 254 rifle magazines and 63 rifle barrels.

Lopez acknowledged selling the parts over the internet and shipping them to the two countries despite knowing that it was illegal.

Target shooters spark wildfires near Reno

NV RENO — Federal officials confirmed Friday that target shooters started

separate wildfires outside Reno and they're asking for the public's help finding a red ATV seen leaving the area where the one broke out in the Washoe Valley.

Neither of the fires, which were reported within an hour of each other around noon Thursday, caused any property damage or threatened structures.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said a red side-by-side utility terrain vehicle was seen driving on Goni Road toward Carson City shortly after the Dark Hill fire was reported. It burned about 12 acres before it was snuffed out.

The Chimney Fire burned about 184 acres north of Sun Valley Regional Park north of Reno.

THE CENSUS



660 The approximate number of dead seals that have washed ashore along

the coastline in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts since July. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said an outbreak of distemper is to blame. There's no danger to humans because the virus that causes distemper in seals is not contagious, but the virus can affect pets.

Woman gets prison in virtual kidnapping scam

TX HOUSTON — A Texas woman was sentenced to more than seven years in federal prison for her role in what investigators called a "virtual kidnapping" extortion scam with ties to Mexico.

Yanette Rodriguez Acosta was sentenced Thursday to 88 months in prison. The 35-year-old Houston woman pleaded guilty in February to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Investigators last year warned about the scam, in which callers from Mexico tell parents that their children have been abducted and demand ransoms.

Man who shot shaving video meant no harm

NY NEW YORK — The commuter who filmed another man shaving on a New Jersey Transit train and posted the video on social media said he never intended any harm.

In a tweet Tuesday, Pete Benivenigna said there's been a lot of licensing interest in the video and that all proceeds will go to support Anthony Torres and his family.

The viral video shows Torres steadily swiping away with a razor at his lathered face.

The 56-year-old said he was just trying to clean up before visiting his family after spending days in a homeless shelter.

3 radio stations knocked off air by copper thefts

AR JONESBORO — Three Jonesboro radio stations are back on the air after copper thieves disrupted operations and damaged the transmitter building and a backup generator.

The outages affected East Arkansas Broadcasters stations KTVS, KTVS HD2 and KBMT Sept. 17.

EAP Chief Operating Officer Scott Siler told The Jonesboro Sun that the stations returned to the air the same day.

The Craighead County Sheriff's Office reported the wires were cut and were pulled from the ground and the building by a truck using either a rope or a cable.

From wire reports

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Rising oil prices haven't hurt US economy yet

By DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

DALLAS — America's red-coveted prowess in oil production is shaking up old notions about the impact of higher crude prices on the U.S. economy.

It has long been conventional wisdom that rising oil prices hurt the economy by forcing consumers to spend more on gasoline and heating their homes, leaving less for other things.

Presumably that kind of run-up would slow the U.S. economy. Instead, the economy grew at its fastest rate in nearly four years during the April-through-June quarter.

President Donald Trump appears plainly worried about rising oil prices just a few weeks before midterm elections that will decide which party controls the House and Senate.

"We protect the countries of the

Middle East, they would not be safe for very long without us, and yet they continue to push for higher and higher oil prices!" Trump tweeted Thursday. "We will remember. The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!"

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, who account for about one-third of global oil supplies, were scheduled to meet this weekend with nonmembers including Russia.

The gathering was not expected to yield any big decisions — those typically come at major OPEC meetings like the one set for December. Oil markets, however, were rolled Friday by a report that attendees were considering a significant increase in production to offset declining output from Iran, where exports have fallen ahead of Trump's reimposition of sanctions.

OPEC and Russia have capped

production since January 2017 to bolster prices. Output fell even below those targets this year, and in June the same countries agreed to boost the oil supply, although they didn't give numbers.

The United States still imports about 6 million barrels of oil a day on average, but that is down from more than 10 million a decade ago. In the same period, U.S. production has doubled to more than 10 million barrels a day, according to government figures.

"Because the U.S. now is producing so much more than it used to, [the rise in oil prices] is not as big an impact as it would have been 20 years ago or 10 years ago," said Michael Maher, an energy researcher at Rice University and a former Exxon Mobil economist.

The weakening link between oil and the overall economy was seen — in reverse — just three years ago. Then, plunging oil prices were expected to boost the econ-

omy by leaving more money in consumers' pocket, yet GDP growth slowed at the same time that lower oil prices took hold during 2015.

Other economists caution against minimizing the disruption caused by energy prices. "Higher oil prices are unambiguously bad for the U.S. economy," said Philip Verleger, an economist who has studied energy markets. "They force consumers to divert their income from spending on other items to spending on fuels."

Moody's Analytics estimates that every penny increase at the pump reduces consumer spending by \$1 billion over a year, and gasoline has jumped 24 cents in the past year, according to AAA. That is "a clear-cut negative," but not deeply damaging, said Ryan Sweet, director of real-time economics at Moody's.

"Usually with gasoline prices, speed kills — a gradual increase (like the current one), consumers

can absorb that," Sweet said. Consumers have other factors in their favor, he added, including a tight job market, wage growth, better household balance sheets and the recent tax cut.

Sweet said the boon that higher prices represent to the growing energy sector, which can invest in more wells, equipment and hiring, means that the run-up in crude has probably been "a small but net positive" for the economy.

"That could change if we get up to \$3.50, \$4," he said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 24)	\$1.2066
Dollar buys (Sept. 24)	69.8388
British pound (Sept. 24)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (Sept. 24)	109.90
South Korean won (Sept. 24)	1,089.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Bahrain (Pound)	1.3069
Canada (dollar)	1.2936
China (Yuan)	6.8594
Denmark (Krone)	6.3524
Egypt (Pound)	17.9144
Euro	1.1742/0.8516
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8952
Hungary (Forint)	275.98
Israel (Shekel)	3.5767
Japan (Yen)	112.66
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3029
Norway (Krone)	8.1522
Philippines (Peso)	54.15
Poland (Zloty)	3.66
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7598
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3651
South Korea (Won)	1.1163
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9574
Thailand (Baht)	32.46
Turkey (Lira)	6.2869

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.32
3-month bill	2.12
30-year bond	3.21

Congress scrutinizes shrinking seats, legroom on planes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration would be required to set new minimum requirements for seats on airplanes under legislation to be considered in the House this week, possibly giving passengers a break from ever-shrinking legroom and cramped quarters.

The regulation of seat width and legroom is part of a five-year extension of federal aviation programs announced early Saturday by Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate committees that oversee the nation's air travel.

Congress faces a Sept. 30 deadline to keep FAA programs running. The Senate will also need to take up the bill this week or both chambers will need to pass a short-term extension.

The bill would prohibit the involuntary

bumping of passengers who have already boarded a plane. But in a nod to the power of the commercial airlines, lawmakers declined to include language that would have prohibited airlines from imposing fees deemed "not reasonable and proportional."

Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson, of Florida, said lawmakers from both chambers agreed it was time to take action on "ever-shrinking seats."

"Relief could soon be on the way for weary airline passengers facing smaller and smaller seats," Nelson said.

In July, the FAA rejected the idea of setting minimum standards for airlines seats and legroom as a safety measure. But Congress appears determined to require the FAA to do so.

The room between rows — measured from

a point on one seat to the same point on the seat in the next row — has been shrinking for many years as airlines squeeze more seats onto their planes. It was once commonly 34 or 35 inches, and is now less than 30 inches on some planes.

Lawmakers also included several provisions to address concerns about increased airport noise levels caused by new flight paths. The bill would require the FAA to study the potential health impacts of flight noise and the feasibility of amending existing departure procedures.

The bill would also mandate that flight attendants get a minimum of 10 hours of rest between their work shifts and require airlines to communicate better with customers during mass flight cancellations and groundings.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Sunday, March 25, 1945

For the troops

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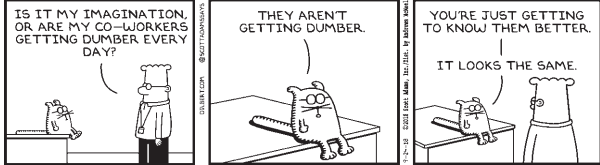
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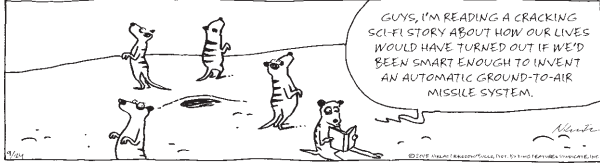
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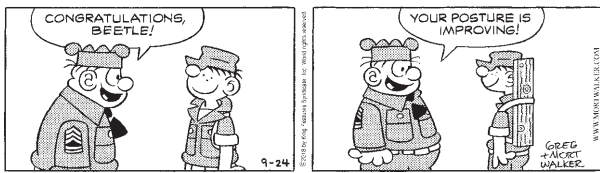
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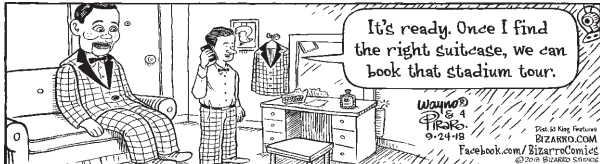
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
				18						19		
21	22	23						24				
25				26		27		28			29	30
31				32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40		
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45	46							47				
48				49		50				51	52	53
54						55					56	
57						58					59	

ACROSS

- 1 Energy
- 4 Ticket remnants
- 9 Church seat
- 12 Commotion
- 13 Bridal path
- 14 Gorilla
- 15 White arctic mammal
- 17 Brooch
- 18 Chowded down
- 19 Cut in half
- 21 Leave
- 24 Crystal gazer
- 25 Buckeyes' sch.
- 26 "Mangia!"
- 28 Cavalry sword
- 31 Hit the runway
- 33 Arrest
- 35 Zhivago's love
- 36 "— di

DOWN

- 58 Remains
- 59 Society newcomer
- 23 Sangria vessel, often
- 27 Label
- 29 Part of Q.E.D.
- 30 Fury
- 32 Couturier
- 34 Historic Boston area
- 37 Takes as one's own
- 39 Photo assignments
- 42 Bull's sound
- 44 Blackbird
- 45 Single
- 46 Daring
- 50 Pot brew
- 51 Young fellow
- 52 Farm female
- 53 CSA soldier

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	I	T	M	A	W	R	A	C	E	D
A	D	A	E	S	A	O	G	A	P	E
R	E	X	D	O	T	S	I	S	I	S
P	A	I	N	I	N	T	H	E	N	E
			C	U	E	J	A	G		
D	R	E	A	M	F	O	R	T	R	A
R	O	M	A	M	O	B	S	W	I	M
Y	O	U	T	A	X	W	H	O	M	P
			S	A	G	A	H	A		
P	R	O	M	E	N	A	D	E	D	E
E	U	R	O	A	L	E	E	A	A	A
T	E	A	K	T	E	L	L	S	T	L
E	A	R	L	E	X	E	S	T	E	E

9-24

CRYPTOQUIP

BGPQ CK NKR MRSSKMY
EYZVPW BGY PQ IPZVYZM
MGKRUC MPN QK YPJG
KQGYZ OYIKZY OYC?
"EURQYW WPJGQ."

Saturday's Cryptquip: WHAT CELEBRITY PREFERRED TO EAT RING-SHAPED FOODS SUCH AS DOUGHNUTS AND BAGELS? TORUS DAY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals W


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SCOREBOARD

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Auto racing

Federated Auto Parts 400

NASCAR Monster Energy Cup
Saturday
At Richmond Raceway
Richmond, Va.
Loop length: 1.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

(1) (1) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 400 laps, 0 rating, 40 points.	
(2) (1) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 400, 0, 53	
(3) (3) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 400, 0, 54	
(4) (3) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 400, 0, 47	
(5) (6) Aric Almirola, Ford, 400, 0, 45	
(6) (26) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 400, 0, 35	
(7) (9) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 400, 0, 32	
(8) (21) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 400, 0, 29	
(9) (32) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 400, 0, 22	
(10) (7) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 400, 0, 21	
(11) (8) Erik Jones, Toyota, 400, 0, 20	
(12) (4) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 400, 0, 19	
(13) (33) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 400, 0, 18	
(14) (24) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 399, 0, 25	
(15) (16) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 399, 0, 22	
(16) (22) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 399, 0, 23	
(17) (38) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 399, 0, 25	
(18) (5) Kurt Busch, Ford, 398, 0, 20	
(19) (44) Blaine Ellis, Ford, 399, 0, 18	
(20) (19) William Byron, Chevrolet, 398, 0, 23	
(21) (14) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 398, 0, 16	
(22) (16) Paul Menard, Ford, 397, 0, 15	
(23) (40) David Ragland, Ford, 397, 0, 14	
(24) (23) Michael McDowell, Ford, 397, 0, 13	
(25) (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 396, 0, 12	
(26) (31) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, 396, 0, 13	
(27) (25) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 395, 0, 10	
(28) (29) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 395, 0, 9	
(29) (28) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 394, 0, 8	
(30) (22) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 394, 0, 7	
(31) (39) Ryan Smith, Chevrolet, 394, 0, 6	
(32) (31) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, 393, 0, 5	
(33) (30) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 392, 0, 4	
(34) (27) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 391, 0, 3	
(35) (35) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 388, 0, 0	
(36) (36) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 387, 0, 0	
(37) (32) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Toyota, 387, 0, 0	
(38) (34) Alan Day, Toyota, 383, 0, 1	
(39) (37) Timmy Hill, Ford, 382, 0, 0	
(40) (33) Gray Gaulding, Chevrolet, 382, 0, 0	

Monday's races

Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay	
Thursday, Sept. 27	
Minnesota at L.A. Rams	
San Francisco at Cincinnati	
Houston at Indianapolis	
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville	
San Francisco at New England	
Dallas at Dallas	
Green Bay at Philadelphia	
Cleveland at Oakland	
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants	
San Francisco at L.A. Chargers	
Baltimore at Pittsburgh	
Open Washington, Carolina	
Monday, Oct. 1	
Kansas City at Denver	
Monday's races	
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay	
Thursday, Sept. 27	
Minnesota at L.A. Rams	
San Francisco at Cincinnati	
Houston at Indianapolis	
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville	
San Francisco at New England	
Dallas at Dallas	
Green Bay at Philadelphia	
Cleveland at Oakland	
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants	
San Francisco at L.A. Chargers	
Baltimore at Pittsburgh	
Open Washington, Carolina	
Monday, Oct. 1	
Kansas City at Denver	

Baseball Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 103.159 mph.

Time of Victory: 0.777 seconds.

Caution Flags: 39 for 23 laps.

Lead Changes: 16 among 18 drivers.

Top Leaders: K.Harvick - 40; M.Truxx - 41; A.Almirola - 20; K.Larson - 20; B.Wallace - 21; C.Elliott - 24; A.Dillon - 24; A.Bowman - 27; K.Busch - 28; K.Busch - 28; K.Busch - 29; K.Busch - 32; K.Busch - 32; K.Busch - 34.

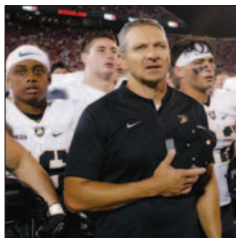
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times, Lead, Laps Led)

Led, Lap Led: M.Truxex, 3 times
160 laps; Ky.Busch, 3 times for 89 laps
B.Keselowski, 5 times for 62 laps
A.Almirola, 1 time for 0 laps; C.Elliott,
1 time for 0 laps; R.Stenhouse, 1
time for 1 lap; A.Almirola, 1 time for 0
laps; A.Bowman, 1 time for 0 laps.

Wins: Ky.Busch, 7; K.Harvick,
M.Truxex, 4; B.Keselowski, 3; C.Bow
2; Ku.Busch, 1; A.Dillon, 1; C.Elliott,
1.

Top 15 in Points: M.Truxex, 2144
Ky.Busch, 2130; 3. B.Keselowski, 21
4. K.Harvick, 2113; 5. J.Logano, 20
6. A.Almirola, 2079; 7. K.Larson, 20
8. Ku.Busch, 2071; 9. A.Dillon, 2066;
10. R.Stenhouse, 2066; 11. A.Bowman, 20
12. R.Blank, 2054; 13. J.Bowles, 2054
14. Johnson, 2053; 15. E.Jones, 2038;

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



SUE OROCK/AP

Army head coach Jeff Monken stands with his team after a 28-21 overtime loss to No. 5 Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., on Saturday.

Almost: OU fans applaud Army's efforts

FROM BACK PAGE

Monken said the Black Knights would have gone for two and the win if they had scored a touchdown on their overtime possession. The Black Knights were 4-for-4 on fourth-down conversions until Motley's interception.

"Every loss is tough," Hopkins said. "It hurts right now, but our job tomorrow is to come back and find what we can do better to get another win next weekend. That's what we're going to do. Like I said, it hurts, but we can't dwell on it too long."

Army won 10 games last season for the second time in its long and storied history. The Black Knights are 2-2 this season, losing only to undefeated Duke and undefeated Oklahoma, both on the road. They will pay a visit to another undefeated team, Buffalo, next weekend.

In this one, Oklahoma led 21-14 at halftime after Army had 16-play, 75-yard touchdown drives on its first two possessions. Hopkins ran for 55 yards in the first half, including a nifty 5-yard touchdown run. Army ran 39 times for 183 yards in the first half and had the ball for 22:01, leaving Oklahoma time enough to run only 20 plays.

The Black Knights tied the game at 21 with 1:51 remaining in the third quarter after a 19-play, 85-yard drive that took 10:47 off the clock.

Oklahoma drove to the Army 1, but the Black Knights got the stop on fourth-and-goal and took over with 12:23 to go.

"A lot of heart, a lot of toughness and playing really well fundamentally," Monken said. "Pads down, hands where they're supposed to be, in the gaps where they're supposed to be. And that's what it takes. So I was proud of our guys for that goal-line stand. It was a great, great effort."

Sooners were greeted Army's players as they left the field. Even with the loss, the Black Knights left feeling good about themselves.

"To be part of a football team, to come in here tonight and about pull off a victory against a great football program — I'm just incredibly proud to be part of this football team," Monken said. "I'm proud of our players. It's just a privilege to be part of a group of people who just care so much. It's fun to be part of something like that."

Old Dominion stuns Virginia Tech

By JIMMY ROBERTSON
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — This was supposed to be a relatively easy road trip for Virginia Tech. Cross the state, connect with some its fans and maybe a few recruits there, and pick up a routine victory against Old Dominion.

The Monarchs and their backup quarterback turned the Hokies first visit to their stadium into maybe the most notable victory in school history — in any sport.

Blake LaRussa came off the bench to throw for 495 yards and four touchdowns to lead Old Dominion to a 49-35 upset of No. 13 Virginia Tech on Saturday in the Hokies' first game at the cross-state school that re-started its football program in 2009.

LaRussa, who entered the game on ODU's second series, completed 30 of 49 and rushed for a touchdown to lead the 28½-point underdog Monarchs (1-3) to a stunning win over the Hokies (2-1) from the Atlantic Coast Conference. Virginia Tech started the season with a decisive victory as an underdog against Florida State and now the Hokies are on the receiving end of what will likely be one of the biggest upsets of the season.

"I told them, 'I liked you guys a lot better when everybody told you you were terrible,'" Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente said about his team. "When everybody told you you didn't have any chance in that first game, and all you did was work your tails off." And then now we get all feeling good about ourselves and we got brought back down to earth. We got what we deserved."

Jeremy Cox's 40-yard touchdown run with 1:34 remaining sealed the storm. After the game, the ODU faithful stormed the field. Longtime ODU coach Bobby Wilder called it "one of the biggest moments in Hampton Roads sports history."

Virginia Tech beat ODU 38-0 in Blacksburg last year. This was the second meeting of a scheduled 13 over 14 seasons, including six in Norfolk.



JASON HIRSCHFELD/AP

Old Dominion quarterback Blake LaRussa is flushed out of the pocket by Virginia Tech's Trevon Hill during the second half Saturday, in Norfolk, Va. Old Dominion won 49-35.

The Hokies led 28-21 after a 72-yard touchdown pass from Josh Jackson to Damon Hazelton with 32 seconds left in the third quarter, but ODU scored on its next two possessions, taking a 35-28 lead on a 15-yard touchdown run by Cox with 9:57 to go — the Monarchs' first lead of the game.

Things got worse for Virginia Tech, as Jackson went down with a lower leg injury on the first play of the ensuing drive. Backup quarterback Ryan Willis led the Hokies on a 75-yard march that ended with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Chris Cunningham with 7:15 remaining, tying the game at 35.

But the Hokies simply had no answer for ODU. LaRussa polished off a 75-yard drive with a beautiful 29-yard fade pattern to Jonathan Duhart for a touchdown with 5:11 left that put ODU ahead to stay.

"At night when you dream about this game, this is what you picture," Monarchs wide receiver Travis Fulgham said.

Led by LaRussa and Cox, ODU finished with 632 yards against a Virginia Tech team that has prided itself on defense for decades under coordinator Bud Foster. Cox rushed for 130 yards.

"Very disappointed in how we competed," Foster said. "I just didn't think we competed for balls. We played just poor technique. We weren't ready to play in the bottom line and I take full responsibility for that."

Steven Peoples paced the Hokies with a career-high 156 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Jackson threw two touchdown passes before leaving with the injury. Fuente did not have an immediate update on Jackson's condition.

Stanford rallies in OT to top Oregon

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Stanford quarterback K.J. Costello watched as his overtime pass tumble in midair for an agonizing moment after it was tipped by tight end Colby Parkinson.

"I saw the ball go in the air, held my breath, and then for Colby to come down with it was pretty awesome," said Costello, who threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns.

It was the last scoring pass, the 23-yard drive that Parkinson tipped to himself in the end zone, that completed No. 7 Stanford's 38-31 comeback victory over No. 20 Oregon on Saturday night.

After Costello's TD pass to Parkinson, Stanford's Alameen Murphy intercepted Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert's pass in the end zone for the victory.

Bryce Love returned after sitting out last week against UC Davis to rest minor injuries. He ran for 89 yards and a touchdown as Stanford remained undefeated with another tough test against No. 8 Notre Dame looming next week.

Costello said the turning point for the Cardinal came in the third quarter, when Oregon had a touchdown overturned that would have pushed the Ducks' lead to 30-7, and Stanford linebacker Joey Alferri scooped up a fumble that he ran back 80 yards for a touchdown.

"This game was pretty awesome. It was one of the coolest games I've been a part of in terms of highs and lows, and really just



CHRIS PIETSCH/AP

Stanford's Colby Parkinson, left, and Kaden Smith celebrate a Stanford touchdown in overtime that put the team ahead against No. 20 Oregon on Saturday in Eugene, Ore. Stanford won 38-31.

staying steady throughout the entire night," Costello said.

Love's 22-yard scoring run late in the third quarter cut Oregon's lead to 24-21, but Cyrus Habibi-Likio scored on a 1-yard run for the Ducks with 4:39 left.

In the final minutes of regulation, Stanford answered with Costello's 15-yard TD pass to JJ Arcega-Whiteside to narrow it again before Sean Barton recovered CJ Verdell's fumble on the Stanford 40 with 51

seconds left. Jet Toner hit a 32-yard field to tie it and send the game into overtime.

Herbert threw for 346 yards and a touchdown while receiver Dillon Mitchell caught 14 passes for 239 yards in Oregon's first real challenge of the season after nonconference wins over Bowling Green, Portland State and San Jose State.

"Unfortunately we kind of shot ourselves in the foot a couple of times and we did everything we could to just give Stanford the game," Herbert said.

Oregon came out with a collective tenacity that it hadn't really shown this season. The Ducks' first series was capped by Tony Brooks-James' 7-yard touchdown run. Herbert got Oregon downfield with a 53-yard pass to Mitchell.

The Ducks went up 14-0 on Herbert's 7-yard pass to Jacob Breeland to open the second quarter.

Arcega-Whiteside scored on a 13-yard pass from Costello for his sixth TD reception of the season. He was tied at third nationally for touchdown catches going into the game.

Oregon answered on the next drive with Verdell's 48-yard scoring run to go up 21-7.

The Ducks added a 38-yard field goal from Adam Stank.

The momentum shifted late in the third quarter on Alferri's fumble return after Jaylon Redd's 16-yard touchdown run for Oregon was overturned. Replays, however, appeared to show that Redd remained inbounds.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday's stars

Blake LaRussa, Old Dominion, came off the bench to throw for 495 yards and four TDs to lead the Monarchs to a 49-35 upset of No. 13 Virginia Tech.

Tua Tagovailoa, Alabama, passed for 387 yards and four TDs and ran for another score to lead the No. 1 Crimson Tide to a 45-23 rout of No. 22 Texas A&M.

Will Grier, West Virginia, threw five TD passes for the fifth time in his career and the No. 12 Mountaineers shook off a sloppy start to drill Kansas State 35-6.

J.J. Taylor, Arizona, rushed for a Reser Stadium-record 284 yards and two TDs as the Wildcats ran wild over Oregon State 35-14.

Benny Snell Jr., Kentucky, rushed for 165 yards and four TDs as the Wildcats upset No. 14 Mississippi State 28-7.

Ian Book, Notre Dame, rushed for three TDs and threw for two more in his first start of the season, leading the No. 8 Fighting Irish past Wake Forest 56-27.

Jordan Ta'amu, Ole Miss, threw for 442 yards and two TDs and ran for another score to lead the Rebels over Kent State 38-17.

Price Wilson, Bryant, threw for 359 yards and four TDs in a 49-46 win over Robert Morris.

Dalton Sneed, Montana State, ran for 206 yards and three TDs and threw a go-ahead scoring pass to Matt Rensvold in a 41-34 win over Sacramento State.

Tyree Adams, Western Carolina, accounted for 346 yards and four TDs in a 52-50 victory over VMI.

— The Associated Press



TIMOTHY J. GONZALEZ/AP

Arizona running back J.J. Taylor looks back at Oregon State's Jalen Moore as he heads to the end zone on a 62-yard run in the fourth quarter on Saturday. Taylor rushed for a Reser Stadium-record 284 yards, and Arizona won 35-14.

How the AP Top 25 fared

1 Alabama (4-0) beat No. 22 Texas A&M 45-23. Tua Tagovailoa passed for 387 yards and four touchdowns and ran for a score, and the Crimson Tide easily passed the first test against a ranked team. Tagovailoa completed 22 of 30 passes before leaving after Henry Ruggs III took a shuttle pass 57 yards for a score late in the third.

Next: vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, Saturday.
2 Georgia (4-0) beat Missouri 43-29. Jake Fromm threw three touchdown passes and Georgia had a defensive touchdown and returned a blocked punt for a score. The Bulldogs blanketed Missouri's offense and held the home team to three first downs. Georgia's defense forced three turnovers in the first half against the seventh-best offense in the country.

3 Tennessee, Saturday.
4 Clemson (4-0) beat Georgia Tech 49-21. Freshman Treylon Lawrence took a leading role in Clemson's quarterback rotation, coming off the bench to throw four touchdown passes against Georgia Tech. Lawrence finished with 176 yards on 13-of-18 passing.

Next: vs. Syracuse, Saturday.
5 Ohio State (4-0) beat Tulane 49-6. Dwayne Haskins Jr. threw for 304 yards and five touchdowns in the first half and Ohio State routed Tulane in coach Urban Meyer's return to the sidelines following a three-game suspension. Haskins was nearly flawless, completing his first nine passes on the way to a 21-of-24 effort.

Next: at No. 10 Penn State, Saturday.
6 Oklahoma (4-0) beat Army 28-21. OT. Tyler Murray threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Cade Otton in overtime, and Parnell Motley intercepted Kelvin Hopkins' fourth-down pass to help the Sooners escape with a victory over Army.

Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.

6 LSU (4-0) beat Louisiana Tech 38-21. Nick Brossette scored three touchdowns, Clyde Edwards-Helair rushed for a career-high 136 yards and two TDs, and LSU beat Louisiana Tech. Joe Burrow was 16 of 28 for 191 yards.

Next: vs. Mississippi, Saturday.
7 Stanford (4-0) beat No. 20 Oregon 38-31. OT. K.J. Costello threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns, the last a 23-yarder to Colby Parkinson in overtime, and Stanford rallied to beat Oregon. Stanford's Alameen Murphy intercepted Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert's pass in the end zone to seal the victory.

Next: at No. 8 Notre Dame, Saturday.
8 Notre Dame (4-0) beat Wake Forest 56-27. Ian Book rushed for three touchdowns and threw for two more for Notre Dame. Book replaced Brandon Woodrush in the starting lineup and was 25-for-34 for 325 yards. Book helped the Fighting Irish (4-0) more than double their season high for scoring and rout by a season-best 566 total yards.

Next: vs. No. 7 Stanford, Saturday.
9 Auburn (3-1) beat Arkansas 34-3. Noah Igbinohone scored on a 96-yard kickoff return, and a partially blocked punt by Jordan Peters set up another touchdown as big plays on special teams on special teams helped Auburn beat Arkansas. Auburn was held to 91 yards rushing.

Next: vs. Southern Miss, Saturday.
10 Washington (3-1) beat Arizona State 27-20. Jake Browning hit Aaron Fuller and Ty Jones on TD passes during a brilliant first quarter, and found Cade Otton in the back corner of the end zone early in the fourth and Washington outlasted Arizona State. Browning finished 15 of 22 passing for 202 yards.

Next: vs. No. 25 BYU, Saturday.

10 Penn State (4-0) beat Illinois 53-24. Friday. Miles Sanders set career highs by rushing for 200 yards and three touchdowns, and Trace McSorley threw for three TDs for Penn State.

Next: vs. No. 4 Ohio State, Saturday.
12 West Virginia (3-0) beat Kansas State 35-6. Will Grier threw five touchdown passes for the fifth time in his career and West Virginia shook off a sloppy start in the Big 12 opener for both teams. Grier finished 25-for-35 for 356 yards. Three of his TD passes were to David Sills.

Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday.
13 Virginia Tech (2-1) lost to Old Dominion 49-35. Blake LaRussa came off the bench to throw for 495 yards and four touchdowns to lead Old Dominion past Virginia Tech in the Hokies' first game at the cross-state school that restarted its football program in 2009. Jeremy Cox's 40-yard touchdown run with 1:34 remaining sealed the biggest win in program history.

Next: at Duke, Saturday.
14 Mississippi State (3-1) lost to Kentucky 28-7. Benny Snell Jr. rushed for four touchdowns, including two in the fourth quarter, to break a Kentucky career record, and the Wildcats held Mississippi State to 56 yards rushing. Snell finished with 165 on 25 carries, his 15th career 100-yard game.

Next: vs. Iowa, Saturday.
15 Oklahoma State (3-1) lost to Texas Tech 41-17. Ian Bowmman threw for 397 yards and two touchdowns and Texas Tech ended a nine-game losing streak to Oklahoma State. Justice Hill rushed 12 times for 111 yards and a touchdown for the Cowboys.

Next: at Kansas, Saturday.

16 UCF (3-0) beat FAU 56-36. Friday. McKenzie Milton ran for a career-best three touchdowns while throwing for three more, helping UCF extend the nation's longest winning streak with a rout of Florida Atlantic.

Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Saturday.
17 TCU (2-2) lost to Texas 31-16. Sam Ehlinger passed for two touchdowns and ran for a score, all in the second half, and Texas ended a four-game losing streak to TCU. Collin Johnson finished with 124 yards on seven catches.

Next: vs. Iowa State, Saturday.
18 Wisconsin (3-1) beat Iowa 28-17. Alex Hornibrook threw a 17-yard TD pass to A.J. Taylor with 57 seconds left, and Wisconsin bounced back from last week's loss to BYU. Jonathan Taylor had 113 yards rushing and Alec Ingold ran for a 33-yard score with 22 seconds left for the Badgers.

Next: vs. Nebraska, Saturday, Oct. 6.
19 Michigan (3-1) beat Nebraska 56-10. Karan Higdon ran for 136 yards and a touchdown in the first half for Michigan, and Nebraska stumbled to its worst start since 1945. The Wolverines led 20-0 after the first quarter and 39-0 at halftime. The Cornhuskers have lost seven in a row for the first time since 1957.

Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
20 Oregon (3-1) lost to No. 7 Stanford 38-31. OT. Justin Herbert threw for 346 yards and a touchdown while receiver Dillon Mitchell caught 14 passes for 239 yards in Oregon's first real challenge of the season after nonconference wins over Bowling Green, Portland State and San Jose State.

Next: at California, Saturday.

21 Miami (3-1) beat FIU 31-17. NKosi Perry came off the bench to throw three touchdown passes, and Miami's defense was airtight for most of the day. Travis Homer rushed 13 times for 114 yards and a touchdown, Lawrence Cager caught two scoring passes, and Miami held FIU to 31 yards on its first 10 possessions.

Next: vs. North Carolina, Thursday.
22 Alabama A&M (2-2) lost to No. 1 Alabama 45-23. Kellen Mond and the Aggies couldn't put up nearly the fight against Alabama as they had in a 28-26 loss to No. 3 Clemson. Mond completed 16 of 33 passes for 196 yards with a touchdown but was intercepted twice, including on his first throw.

Next: vs. Arkansas, Saturday.
23 Boston College (3-1) lost to Purdue 30-13. Anthony Brown, coming off a career game with five touchdown passes, threw four interceptions as the Eagles, ranked for the first time in 10 years, fell flat. David Blough passed for 296 yards and three touchdowns for the Boilermakers.

Next: vs. Temple, Saturday.
24 Michigan State (2-1) beat Indiana 35-21. Brian Lewerke threw two touchdown passes, and Michigan State had his first career catch and made the perfect pitch to kicker Matt Coughlin for a 6-yard scoring run for Michigan State. The Spartans won the Old Brass Spittone for the 13th time in 15 games.

Next: vs. Central Michigan, Saturday.
25 BYU (3-1) beat McNeese State 30-3. Freshmen Loggion Katon ran for two touchdowns, Skyler Southam kicked three field goals and BYU took advantage of McNeese State's second-quarter mistakes.

Next: at No. 10 Washington, Saturday.



GOLF/SPORTS BRIEFS

Golf roundup

Woods poised for first win since '13

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tiger Woods made it look and sound as if he had never been gone.

More than turning back time, every hole seemed like the one before Saturday at the Tour Championship. A tee shot striped down the middle of the fairway. The clean strike of an iron as he held his pose. A sonic boom of the cheers from around the green. Another birdie.

"I got off to an ideal start," Woods said. "And the next thing you know, I was off and running."

With the most dynamic golf he has played all year, Woods built a five-shot lead in seven holes before he cooled from there, settled for a 5-under 65 that gave him a three-shot lead over Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose and an ideal chance to end this comeback season with a moment that has defined his career.

Winning. Woods has the 54-hole lead for the first time since his last victory in 2013 at the Bridgestone Invitational. He has never lost an official tournament when leading by more than two shots going into the final round, and his closing record with the lead is 42-2 on the PGA Tour.

He has never been in better position to show he's all the way back from four back surgeries that once made him fear he might never play again.

"I've gone through a lot this year to get myself to this point, and understanding and fighting my way through it," Woods said. "I'm certainly much more equipped than I was in March because of what I've gone through."

Woods was at 12-under 198 and

will be paired for the first time in final group with McIlroy on the PGA Tour.

McIlroy birdied two of his last three holes for a 66.

"It's obviously exciting for the golf tournament. It's exciting for golf in general that he's up there," McIlroy said. "But for me, all I can do is concentrate on myself. The game is hard enough without looking at other people. Go out there, take care of my business, and hopefully that's good enough."

Rose started the third round tied with Woods, but not for long.

Rose opened with two straight bogeys before battling back, but the world's No. 1 player already was four shots behind after four holes. He narrowed the gap with a birdie on the 16th as Woods had to scramble for bogey, a two-shot swing.

"In some ways, it felt like a Sunday just with the energy," Rose said after a 68. "But I knew that it was halfway through a Saturday. Just wanted to sort of chisel a few back and give myself a chance going into tomorrow."

Rose forgot about Woods and tried to beat East Lake, a game of match play in his mind, in a bid to stay in the game. He wound up with a hard-earned 68.

There used to be no chance against Woods when he was atop the leaderboard going into the final round. His only losses with the 54-hole lead were the Quad City Classic in 1996 when he was 20 and making his third start as a pro, and the 2009 PGA Championship at Hazletline against Y.E. Yang. He also lost a two-shot lead to Lee Westwood in Germany at a European Tour event in 2000.

Now?

Woods has gone more than five



JOHN AMIS/AP

Tiger Woods hits out of the 16th tee box during the third round of the Tour Championship on Saturday in Atlanta. Woods shot a 5-under 65 to head into the final round with a three-stroke lead.

years without winning. He also has won enough times — 90 tournaments around the world — to remember how.

"It's a little more unknown now," Rose said. "Obviously, his history, his statistics from this point are impeccable. They're incredible. But he's human, and there's a lot on it for him tomorrow, as well as the rest of us."

Woods has had four finishes in the top 5, a runner-up by one shot at Innisbrook and by two shots at the PGA Championship. Only once this year, however, has he started the final round within closer than four shots of the lead.

Being up by three is a much better view.

"Simple math says that if I play a clean card, the guys behind me have to shoot 67 to force it into extra holes," Woods said. "That helps. I don't have to shoot 63 or 64 and hope I get help. This is a

spot I'd much rather be in than four or five back."

The Saturday start was simply mesmerizing.

Woods poured in a 20-foot birdie putt on the first hole. His wedge settled 8 feet below the hole on No. 3. His 20-foot birdie putt on No. 4 tumbled into the center of the cup with perfect pace. Two short birdies followed. And when he finally missed a fairway at No. 7, Woods hit a 9-iron from the bunker that hopped out of the first cut to about 5 feet for a sixth birdie in seven holes.

The cheers were endless, and there was no doubting what was going on.

"I've heard the roars all day, and it's been phenomenal," Paul Casey said after his 66. "What an atmosphere it is out there this week."

European Tour: Tom Lewis came within two shots of tying

English countryman Oliver Fisher's European Tour record on another day of low scoring at the Portugal Masters on Saturday.

Lewis returned a 10-under 61 in the third round, just 24 hours after Fisher carded the first 59 on the circuit. Lewis moved to two strokes behind leader Lucas Herbert of Australia.

Herbert shot a 64 for a 19-under total of 194.

Champions Tour: Steve Stricker and Brandt Jobe topped the Sanford International leaderboard after another cool and breezy day in the inaugural PGA Tour Champions event.

After matching Jerry Smith and David McKenzie with first-round 7-under 63s, Stricker and Jobe each shot 67 to get to 10-under 130 at Minnehaha Country Club. Jobe made an 18-foot birdie putt on the par-4 18th, and Stricker missed a 6-footer to leave them tied.

Briefly

Source: T-wolves sign Towns to five year, \$190M deal

Associated Press

Karl-Anthony Towns is getting a new deal from the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Jimmy Butler is still waiting to get a new address.

The 30-year-old announced Saturday night that he is recommitting to the Timberwolves, securing his future there while Butler's remains a mystery. A person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press that Towns will be signing a five-year super-max extension worth \$190 million.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the team nor Towns publicly revealed the financial terms of the deal. Towns posted a video to social media with the wording "5 More" — a clear nod to the length of the contract.

"On June 25th, 2015, I was drafted to and committed to the Minnesota Timberwolves," Towns wrote in an Instagram post. "On September 22nd, 2018, I made a

recommitment to the Wolves and have the same feelings of excitement that I felt back in 2015."

Towns is going into his fourth season, was an All-Star for the first time a year ago and was the Timberwolves' second-leading scorer last season at 21.3 points per game.

The status of Minnesota's leading scorer last year, however, remains uncertain.

Butler told the Timberwolves several days ago that he has no intentions to be with them for the long-term and wants a trade. The Athletic reported on Saturday that Butler will not be appearing at Minnesota's media day on Monday, or the first day of training camp Tuesday — although it's entirely possible that the Wolves may trade him by then anyway.

Butler led Minnesota at 22.2 points per game last season. If he gets traded, which seems more than likely now, he will be on a third team in little over a year — Chicago

traded him to the Timberwolves on draft night in 2017.

Courage win NWSL title

PORTLAND, Ore. — Jess McDonald scored two goals and the North Carolina Courage won the National Women's Soccer League championship with a 3-0 victory over the Portland Thorns on Saturday.

The victory was a bit of revenge for the Courage, who lost 1-0 to the Thorns in last year's title match.

The Courage (17-1-6) won the league's Supporters' Shield for best record and never dropped a game on the road. The team also set NWSL records this season for the most wins, points and goals.

The match was played before a sellout crowd of 21,144 at Providence Park. That was a record for the final of a women's pro league championship in the United States.

Joshua stops Povetkin

LONDON — With blood streaming out of his busted nose, Anthony Joshua was in deep trouble once more from 80,000 stunned spectators at Wembley Stadium.

Alexander Povetkin, a 39-year-old Russian with supposedly his best days behind him, was dominating heavyweight boxing's new superstar with his powerful inside work and punching power.

Joshua slowly picked off a tiring Povetkin and delivered a brutal finish in the seventh round to retain his WBA, IBF, and WBO belt on Saturday.

"A few years ago," Joshua said, "maybe I wouldn't have won that fight."

The end was emphatic. A left hook left Povetkin open and Joshua followed through with a straight right that sent the challenger to the canvas.

AUTO RACING/NFL

Busch wins Cup Series playoff race at Richmond

50th career victory for JGR driver

By HANK KURZ JR.
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Kyle Busch is starting to wonder why he even spends time trying to qualify well at Richmond Raceway. Five months after winning the spring race on the 0.75-mile oval from the 32nd starting spot, Busch did even better Saturday night, winning from 39th to complete a season sweep of the NASCAR Cup Series races.

"Yeah, I'm not going to qualify here anymore," he said after his 50th career victory, sixth at Richmond and first in the fall. "It's a waste of time for us."

Besides, once the green flag flies, his fortunes change.

"I don't know why. I just cannot qualify here, but we've got a really good race car when it comes down time to have a race and especially the later it gets," he said.

Busch, sent to the rear of the field at the start because of unauthorized adjustments to his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, passed Brad Keselowski with 38 laps to go and held off hard-charging Kevin Harvick.

"To start dead last, come up through the field and win this thing? That's right Rowdy Nation. All for you, baby," Busch said after climbing from his car. "I finally won a fall race here at Richmond!"

Harvick closed a gap of more than 1.5 seconds over the final few laps, but was not able to deprive Busch of tying him with a season-best seven wins this season.

Martin Truex Jr., who swept the first two stages before a penalty forced him to play catch up, rallied for third, followed by Chase Elliott and Arie Almirola.

"The problem is when you get back there, to pass those guys, you've got to really use up your tires," Truex said. "We did really good for only having one caution thrown in



STEVE HELBER/AP

Kyle Busch celebrates winning the NASCAR Cup Series auto race in victory lane at Richmond Raceway in Richmond, Va., on Saturday.

there. It went well. We needed more cautions so we could pit for tires. What a hot rod we had tonight. ... They rebounded well from the pit road mishap."

It was the first time all season that the three drivers who have dominated all season claimed the top three spots in a race.

Busch and Brad Keselowski have already clinched spots in the next round of the playoff by winning the first two playoff races, and Truex joined them on points by winning the first two stages.

Busch and Keselowski, a longtime rival seeking his fourth consecutive victory in the series, battled for the lead for much of the last 100-plus laps. Keselowski grabbed

the top spot on lap 343, but Busch took it back 20 laps later before Keselowski faded, eventually finishing ninth, and Harvick picked up the chase.

"I thought he used a little more when he was racing with Keselowski there, and he drove off a little bit and I started driving him back down at the end," Harvick said.

The race unfolded much like the spring race in April when Joey Logano swept the first two stages, each run without an on-track caution.

This time, it was Truex who completed the sweep, but then his team burned him on pit road. During the caution between the second and third stages, Truex's team

'To start dead last, come up through the field and win this thing? That's right Rowdy Nation. All for you, baby.'

Kyle Busch
NASCAR driver

was penalized for an uncontrolled tire, dropping him to 19th place. After leading 159 laps, he had to play catch up. Like Logano, who wound up fourth in the spring, Truex never quite caught up, finishing 5.8 seconds off the lead.

The defending series champion remains the points leader by 16 over Busch, 28 over Harvick and 30 over Keselowski.

The night was not as eventful as local favorite Denny Hamlin had hoped.

Hamlin, who grew up about 20 miles from the track, started the night 16th in the playoff standings and with hopes of winning stage points and a top finish. He got spun by Ricky Stenhouse Jr. about halfway through the opening stage, had to pit under a green flag but scrambled all the way back to ninth before the stage was completed.

He didn't make it in the top 10 on the second stage, and then tried to reprise his fresh tire surge by pitting under green with about 75 laps to go. But while he was on pit road under a green flag, Matt Kenseth made contact with Jeffrey Earnhardt, who spun into the wall and brought out a caution, putting Hamlin a lap down. The Chesterfield native finished 16th.

The caution was the only one because of an on-track incident all night.

Clint Bowyer (4 points), seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson (6), Erik Jones (21) and Hamlin (29) will start next week's race at Charlotte as the bottom four in the playoffs.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Tampa Bay quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick, pictured, and a talented collection of playmakers that include DeSean Jackson, Mike Evans, O.J. Howard and Chris Godwin have the Buccaneers off to their best start in eight years and have the NFL's top-ranked offense.

Buccaneers ready to showcase potent offense against Steelers

By FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — So much for struggling without Jameis Winston.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are not only thriving in the suspended quarterback's absence, they're evolving into an offensive juggernaut that's set to perform on a national stage when the Pittsburgh Steelers visit Monday night.

Thanks to Ryan Fitzpatrick and a talented collection of playmakers that include DeSean Jackson, Mike Evans, O.J. Howard and Chris Godwin, the Bucs (2-0) are off to their best start in eight years and have the NFL's top-ranked offense.

The Steelers (0-1-1) are not far behind at No. 2, however inconsistency on defense has Ben Roethlisberger and Co. winless through two weeks.

"I respect what they've done. I'm not so sure I'm surprised," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said of Tampa Bay's emergence with wins against the New Orleans Saints and the reigning Super

Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles.

"They've done it with Fitzpatrick, a 35-year-old journeyman who has thrown TD passes for seven NFL franchises, delivering the best two games of his career."

"Man, he's got some explosive weapons. He's stepping in for Winston, but Fitz is not a step-in guy. This guy has started in multiple cities," Tomlin said.

"We've seen him extensively in Cincinnati and Buffalo. He's a smart guy, Ivy League-educated, always made good decisions. That's why he's been able to sustain himself and play for the length of time that he's played."

What once looked as if it might be a potentially disastrous stretch to open the season with Winston suspended three games for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy suddenly is an opportunity for the team's first 3-0 start since 2005.

Very encouraging for a franchise that has missed the playoffs 10 consecutive seasons, the second-longest drought in the league with the Cleveland Browns (15).

Fitzpatrick believes he's playing the best football of his career.

"But, I mean, it's early. Consistency is the biggest thing," the 14th-year pro said. "Trying to stay consistent with a high level of performance and just continue to try to win games."

As well as things are coming together for the Bucs, though, it's been rocky times for the struggling Steelers, off to their worst start in five years.

Pro Bowl running back Le'Veon Bell has not reported to the team and signed his one-year franchise tender.

And star receiver Antonio Brown made headlines after shouting at offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner on the sideline last week and then responding to criticism on social media from a former team employee by suggesting the team trade him if it went to find out how productive he can be without Roethlisberger.

Tomlin, however, isn't flinching.

"We are two weeks in. We do not have a large body of work. We are focused on winning this next opportunity," the coach said.

SPORTS



Monarchs rule
Old Dominion shocks No. 13
Virginia Tech » **Page 25**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ALMOST



SUE OROCK/AP

Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr., center, celebrates with teammates Calen Holt, left, and Camden Harrison, after scoring against No. 5 Oklahoma on Saturday.

Army nearly pulls off biggest upset of season against No. 5 Oklahoma

By CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Army couldn't have played much better against Oklahoma.

The Black Knights, more than four-touchdown underdogs on the road, held on to the ball for nearly 45 minutes and ran 87 plays to Oklahoma's 40. They had a goal-line stand in the fourth quarter. Oklahoma missed a field goal at the end of regulation

that could have won the game. Everything seemed to be falling Army's way.

In the end, it wasn't enough. Oklahoma's Kyler Murray threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to CeeDee Lamb in overtime, and Parnell Motley intercepted Kelvin Hopkins' fourth-down pass to help the Sooners escape with a 28-21 victory on Saturday night.

A loss but much respect all around for the Black Knights.

"This Army team, them boys were

tough," said Curtis Bolton, who had 23 tackles for the busy Oklahoma defense. "You can say what you want. It's a little outdated, the triple option. But at the end of the day, them boys are out there trying to win a football game. They played a hell of a football game. I'm glad we came out with the W."

Oklahoma knew the triple option was coming and Hopkins ran it nearly to perfection. He ran for 102 yards and a touch-

down while constantly fooling the Sooners with his ball handling, but he threw two critical late interceptions.

"That's what makes it even more disappointing to lose, because our guys fought so hard and gutted it out," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "I'm sure there were very few people who gave our guys a chance to win. We had a chance to win the football game and we're disappointed that we didn't."

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Tiger takes three-shot lead into final round » Page 30

